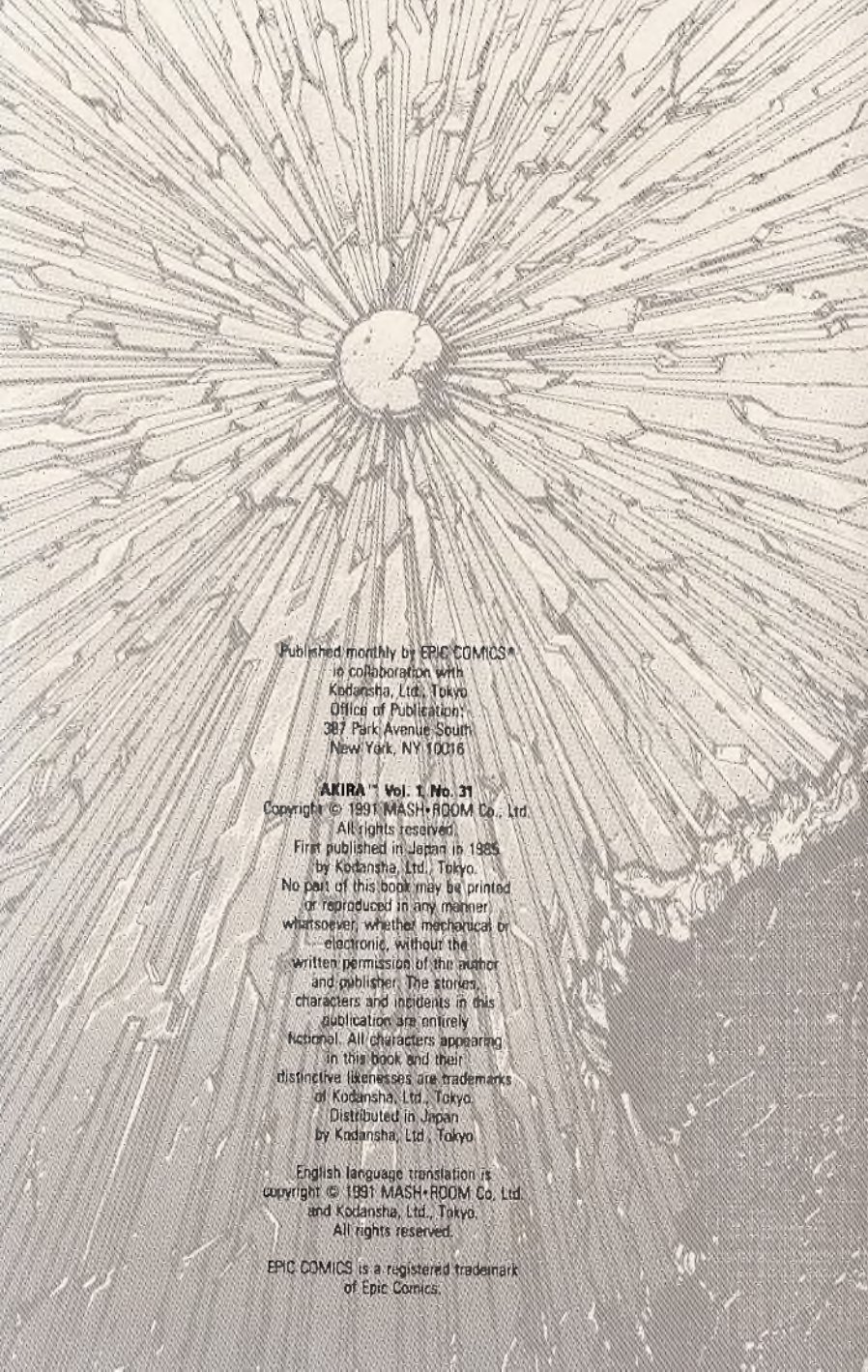




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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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STADIUM SHOW

AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 31

STADIUM SHOW

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

Under his control, the **Colonel** had a number of psychic children, each identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—was once among their ranks but now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's friend, but now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** lost his left arm to a laser blast from the military satellite-weapon SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic replacement.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in a cryogenic sleep forty years ago after he inadvertently started the Third World War with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter, he responded to emotional trauma by again devastating the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the Empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in some of their subjects. Most faithful among their numerous followers are **Tetsuo's** girlfriend, **Kaori**, and his dapper, ambitious assistant. Their headquarters are Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the East, **Lady**



Kaori



The Colonel



Lt. Yamada



Joker



Miyako welcomes refugees, including **Kay** and **Chiyoko**, to her shrine. She is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru** and a number of loyal, psychically gifted monks.

The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world, but all of them except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join **Yamada**, until he learns that the spy plans to assassinate **Akira**, even if it means taking innocent lives. After that he keeps an eye on **Yamada**, trying to protect both the invader and the people of Neo-Tokyo. **Yamada** and his men meet one of Tetsuo's trained psychics—the **Hozuki** man. To their dismay, they find that he can withstand gunfire... and kill without touching.

The wounded **Colonel** is living in hiding with one of his scientists. He is determined to kill **Tetsuo**, who he believes

could become another **Akira**. However, military forces outside Neo-Tokyo are trying to wrestle computer control of SOL from him.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists is studying the **Akira** phenomenon—which they have codenamed **Juvenile A**. They are aghast to learn that the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**, despite their recommendations. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the young, dedicated soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. One of the scientists—**Stanley Simmons**—leaves the ship without authorization, hoping desperately to implement a secret plan. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** try to convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**, because although **Kay** lacks native psychic abilities, she is



Tetsuo



Masaru



Kai



Kay

a powerful medium, through whom the others could project their powers and strike as one. **Lady Miyako** explains that **Akira's** personality has been destroyed by his power, leaving him a passive vessel, and that when **Tetsuo's** character is likewise eroded, he too will be beyond control. **Kay** agrees, remembering that, on a whim, **Tetsuo** recently destroyed part of the moon and set off geological cataclysms.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a former rival from his gang days — is outraged to learn of the risk **Kay** is taking. He vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let her face such danger. Then, at long last, he kisses **Kay** and promises her that they'll spend the night together when they next meet. **Kaneda, Kai** and **Joker** formulate an attack strategy involving most of their men, as well as such state-of-the-art weapons as they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot. Together, they head for the **Olympic Stadium**.

Following his huge expenditure of power, **Tetsuo** begins to lose control, and his artificial arm assumes a

grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing any of his followers who come too close, until **Kaori** is able to calm him. After a brief encounter with the **Colonel, Tetsuo** again teleports to the ship, where **Karma Tangi** — a wise and sensitive monk — warns him that his power has grown beyond what his body can contain and that it is now trying to absorb its very surroundings.

A pitched battle between **Tetsuo** and the **Navy** ensues. The ship's **Admiral** — who witnessed **Tetsuo's** encounter with **Karma Tangi** and the scientists — is the only fighting man capable of understanding their enemy's nature. **Tetsuo** seizes control of bombs and planes, using his attacker's weapons against them.

Kay, channeling the powers of **Lady Miyako** and the numbered children, attacks **Tetsuo**, distracting him. Then, before he can kill her, she teleports safely back to the shrine. **Tetsuo**, collapses in pain, overcome by his power's hunger.

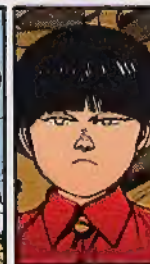
Then, as **Tetsuo's** assistant broods about the future and potential ruin of all his schemes, **Akira** awakes.



Kaneda



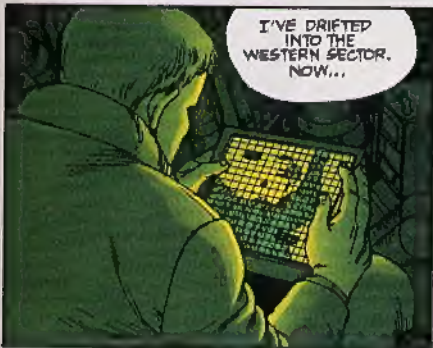
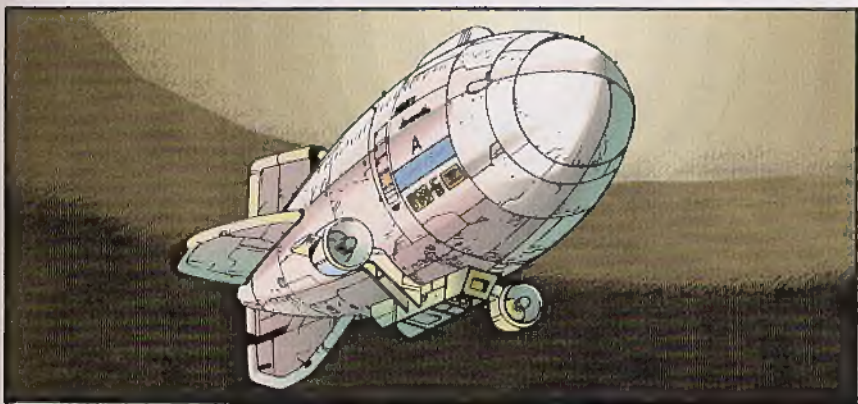
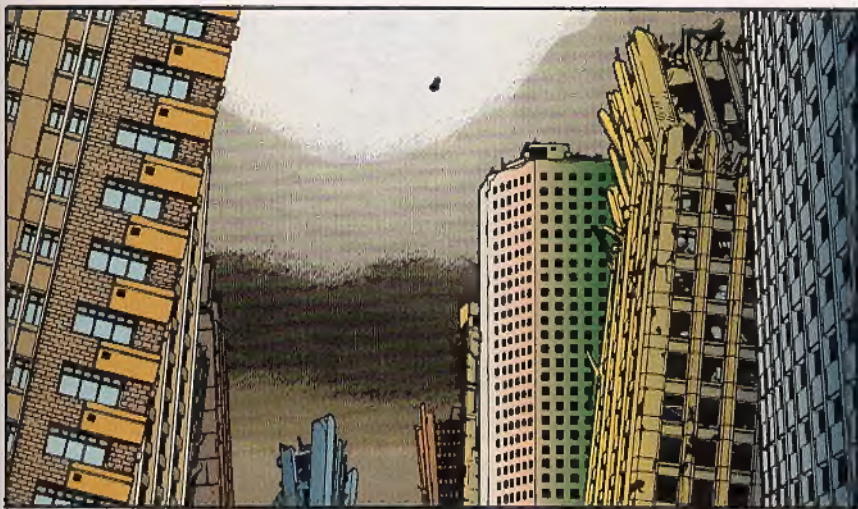
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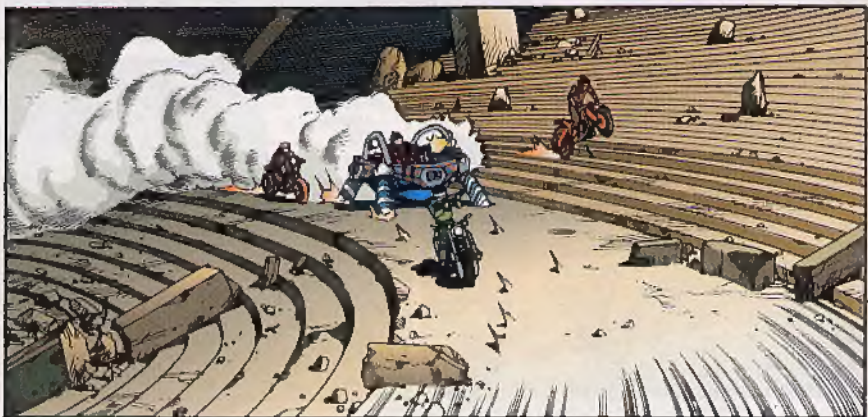
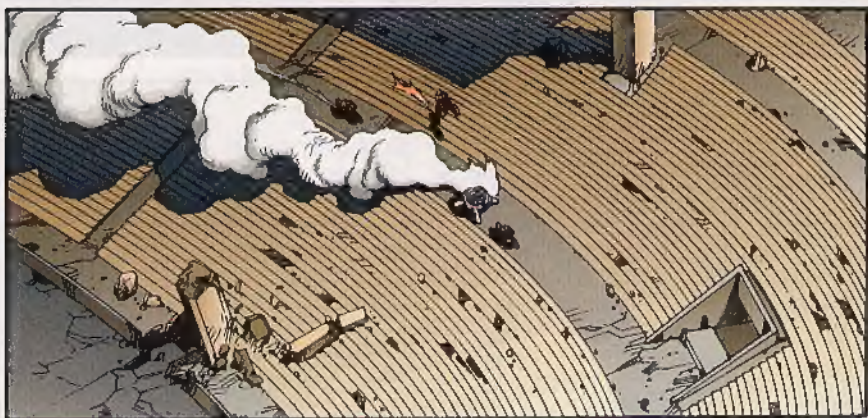
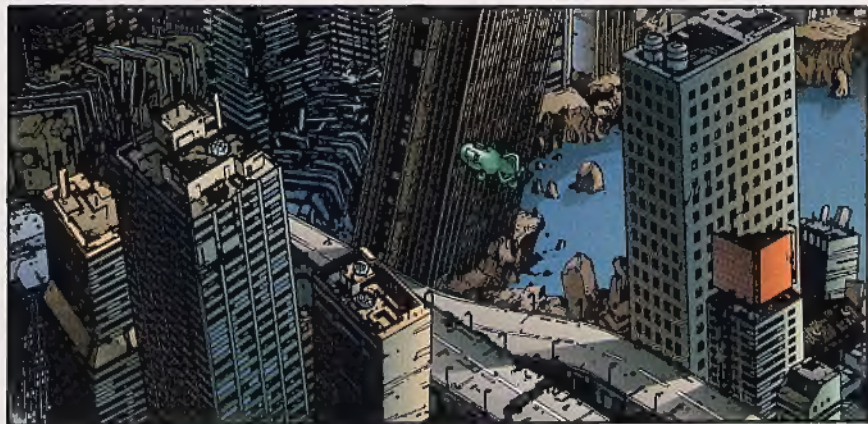


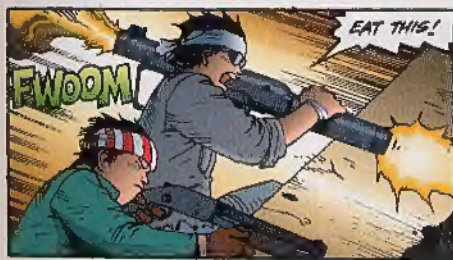
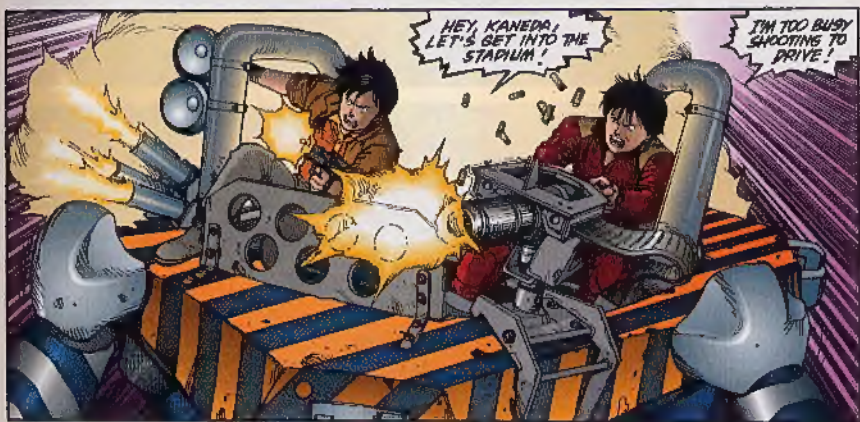
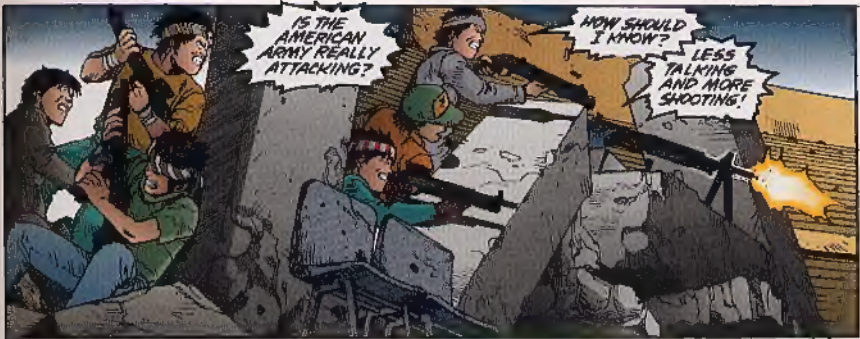
Akira

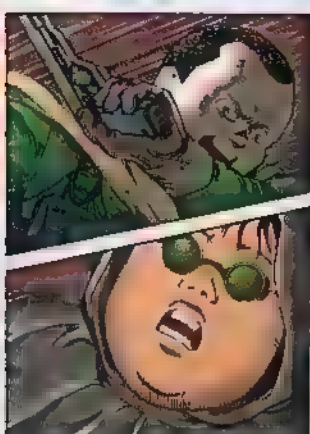
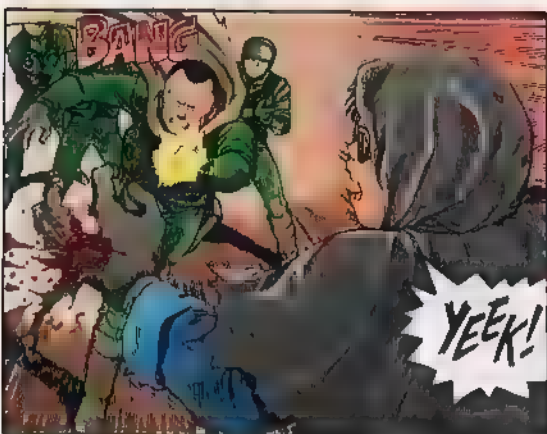
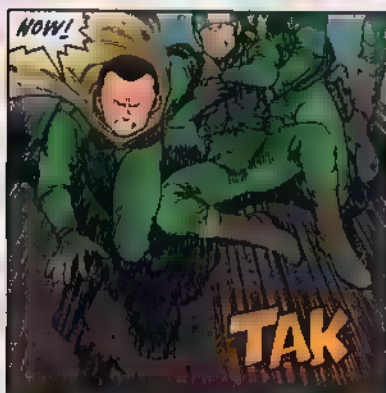


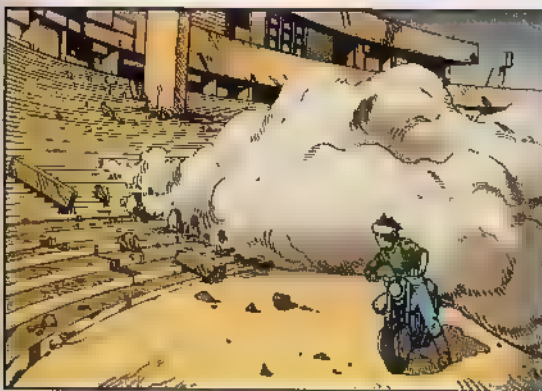
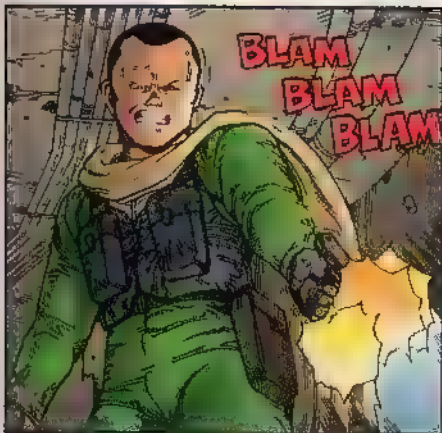
Chiyoiko

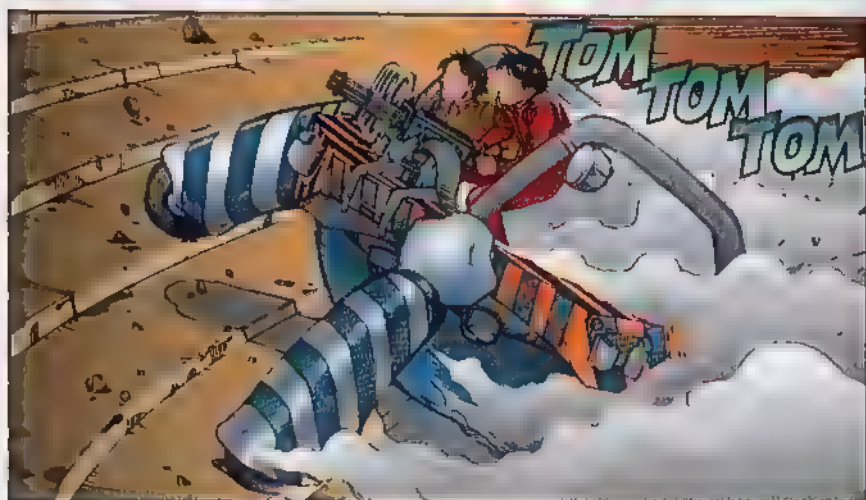
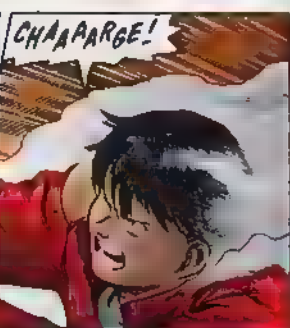
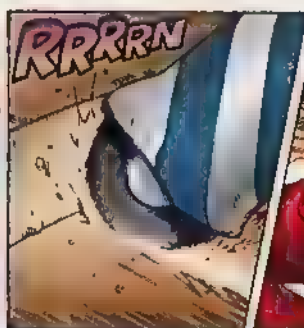
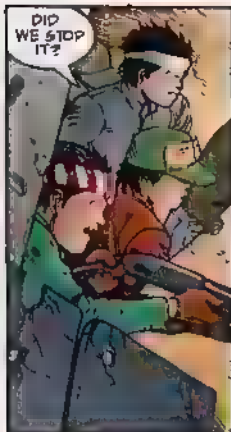


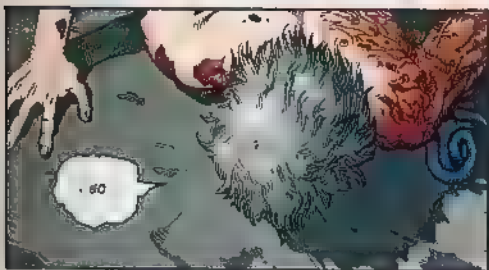


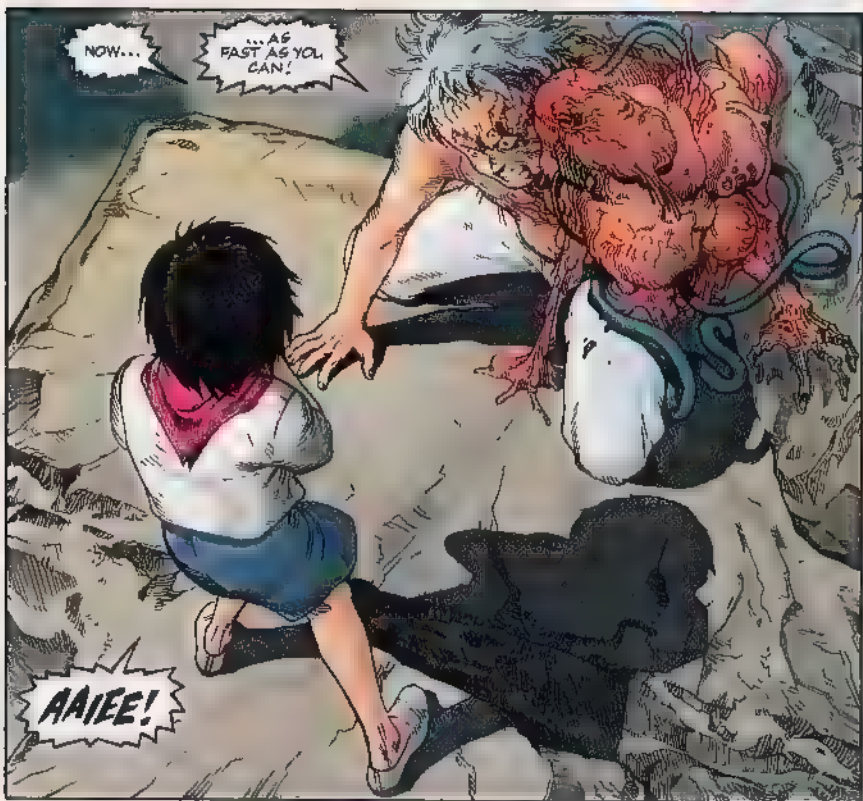
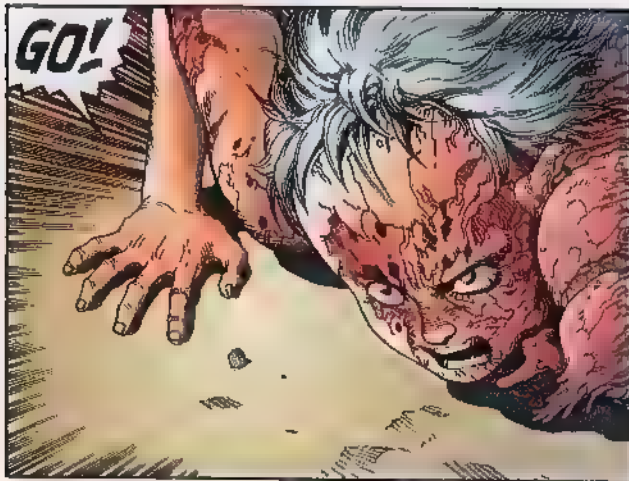


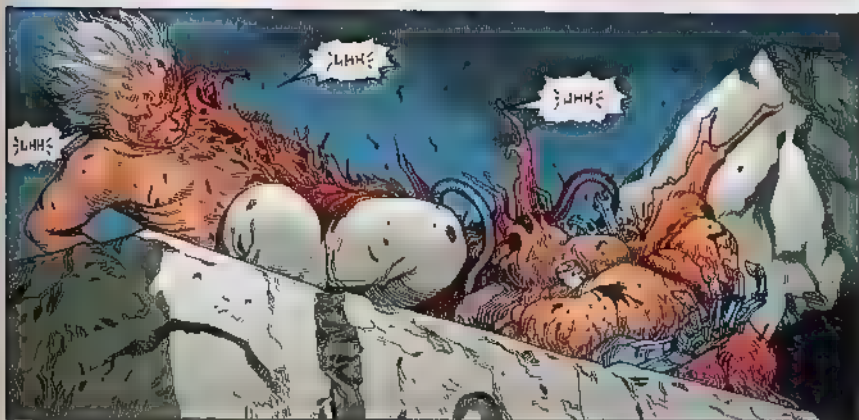
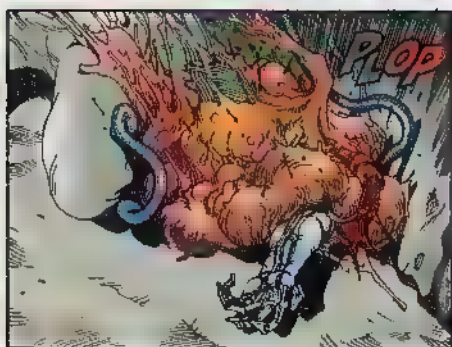
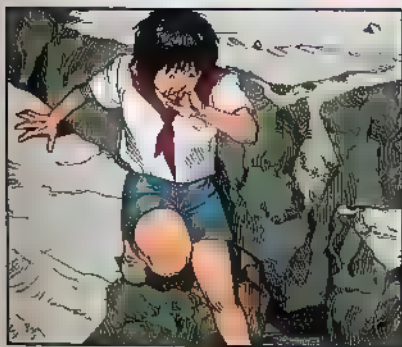
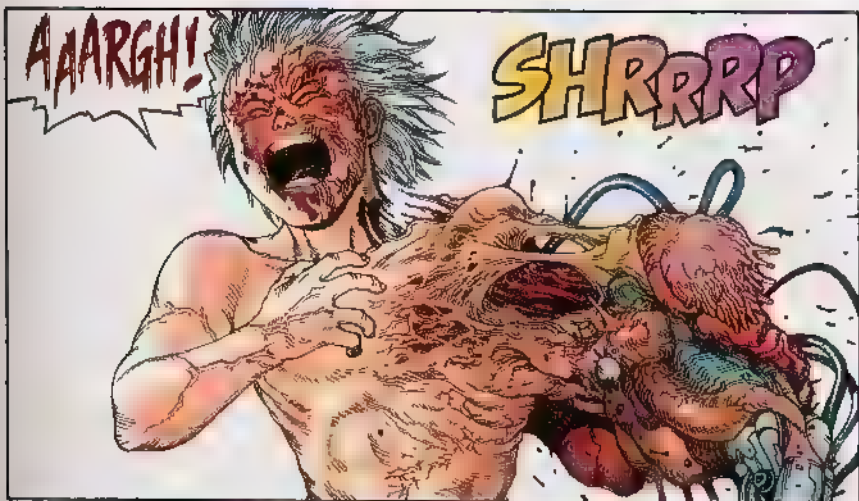


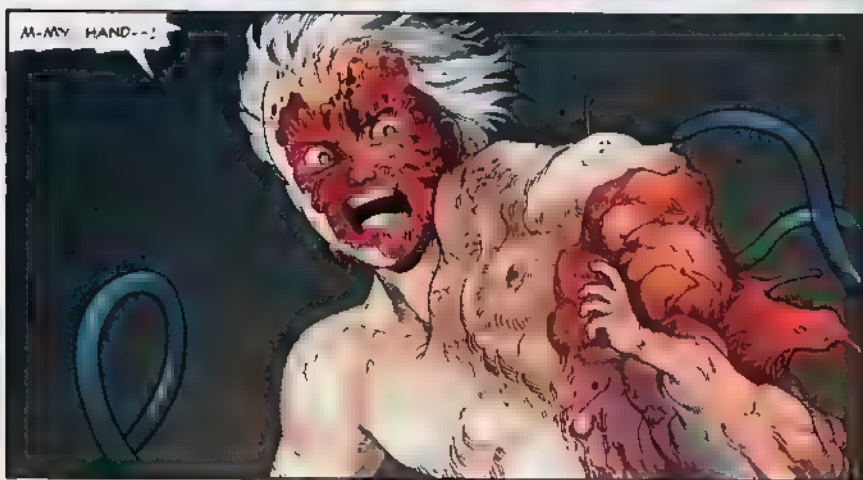
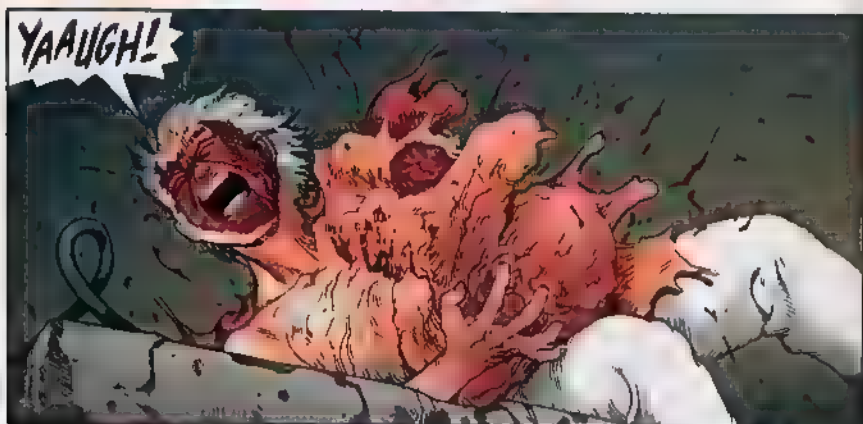
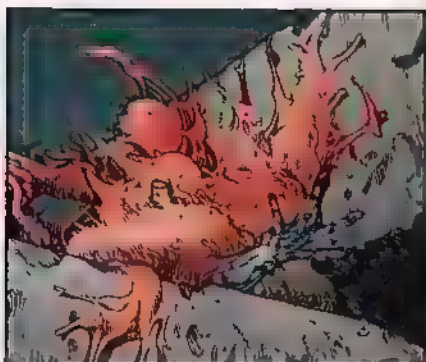
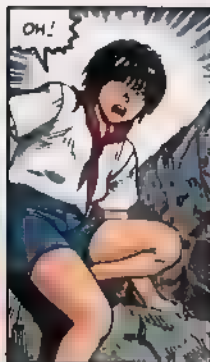


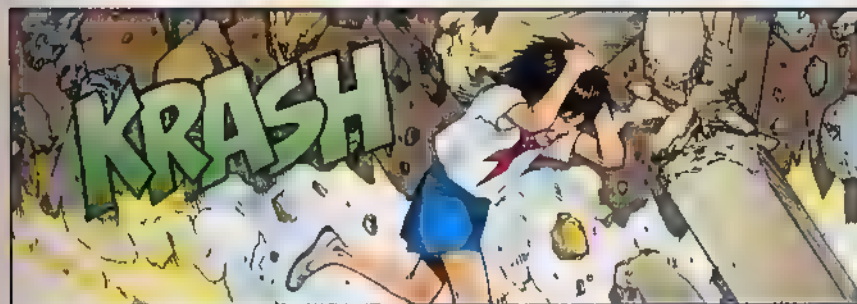
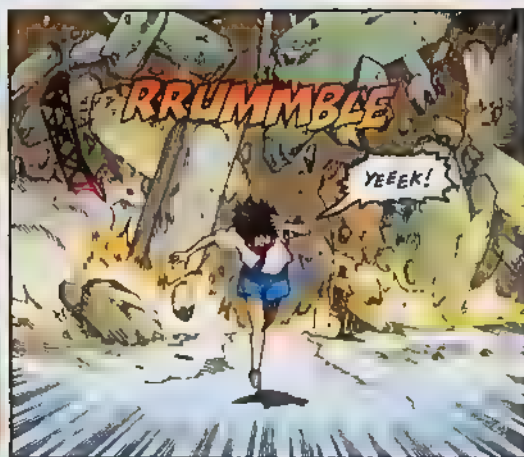
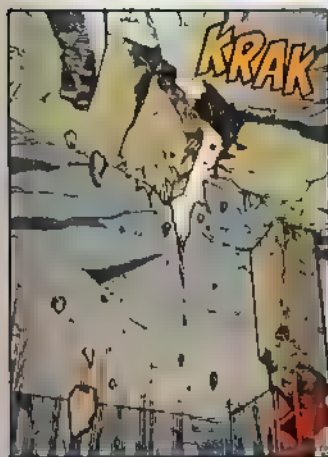


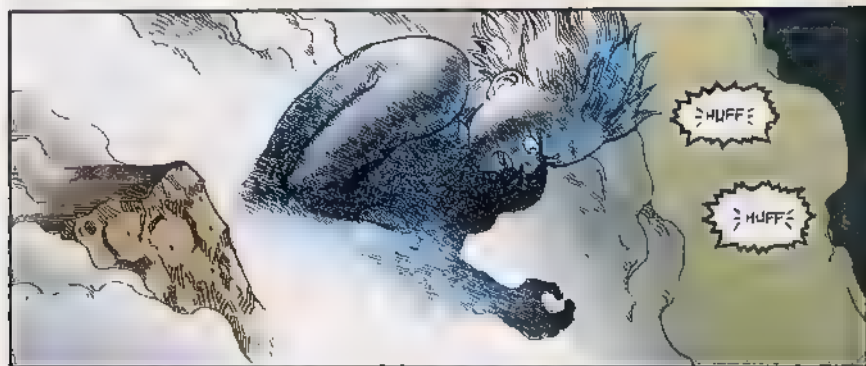
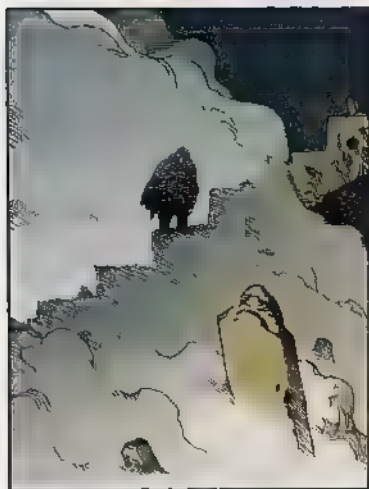


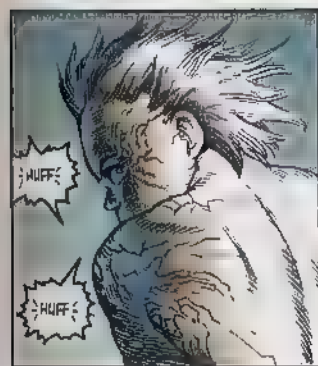
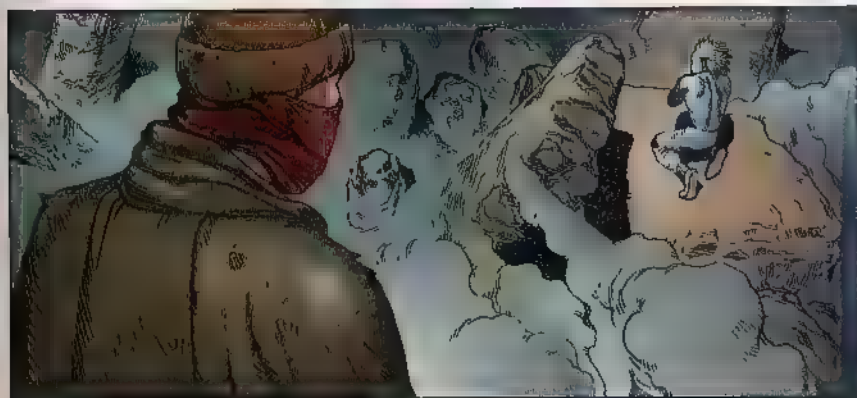


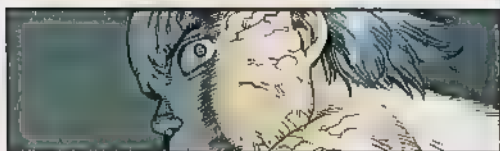
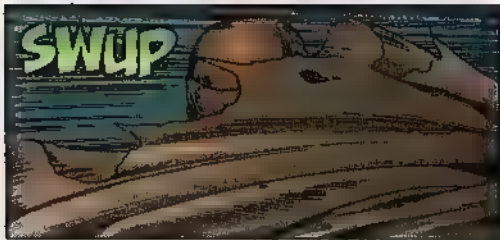


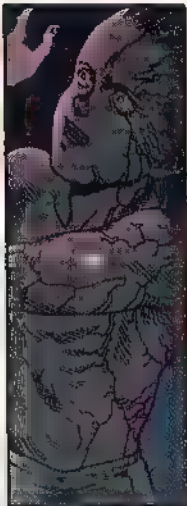


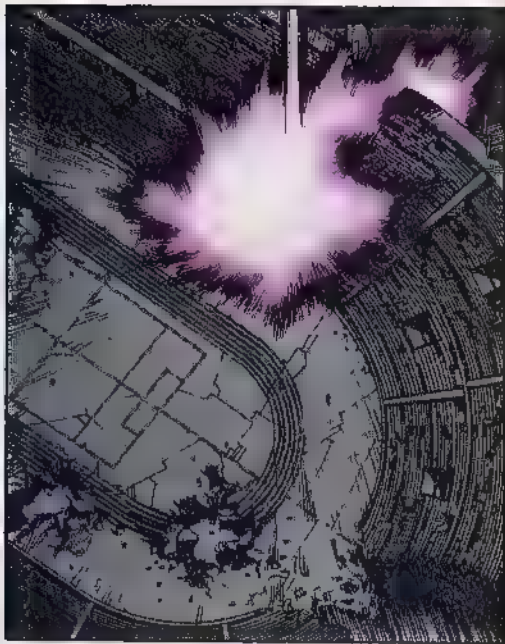
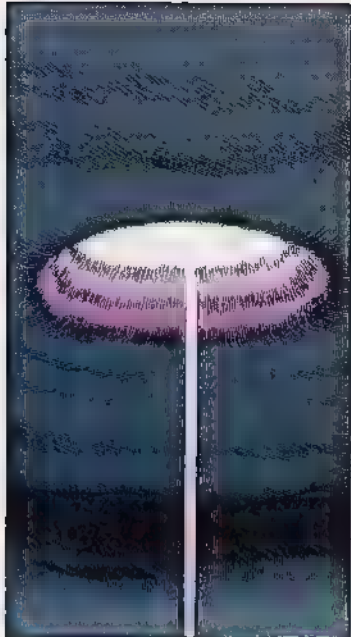


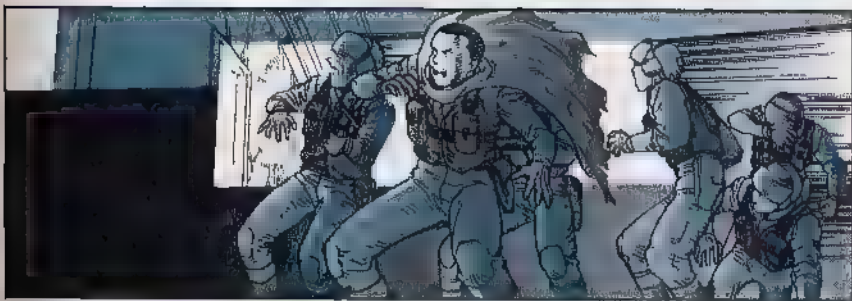
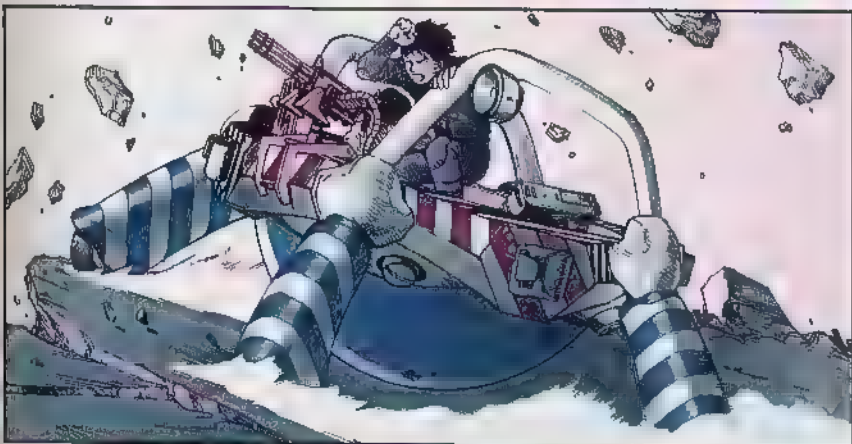










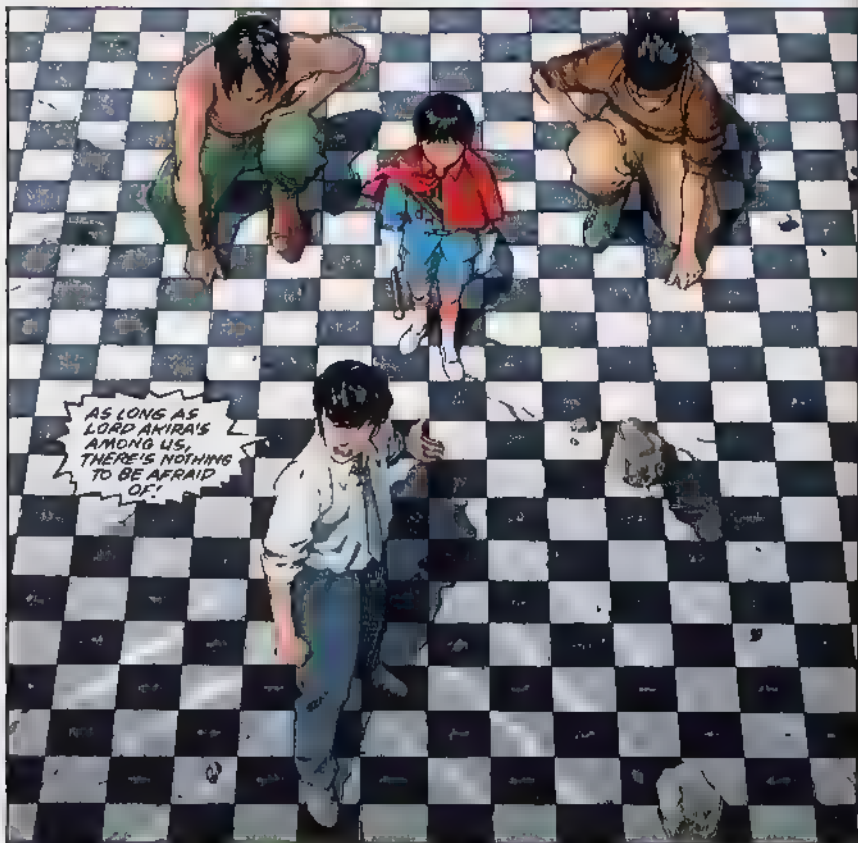


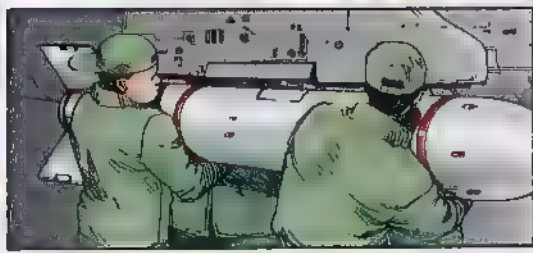
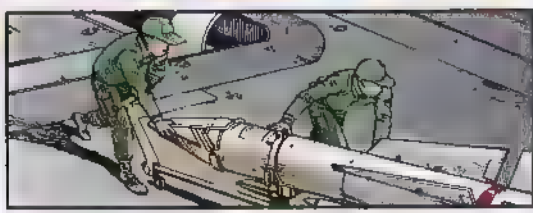
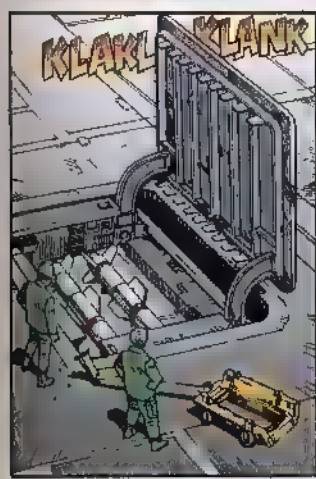
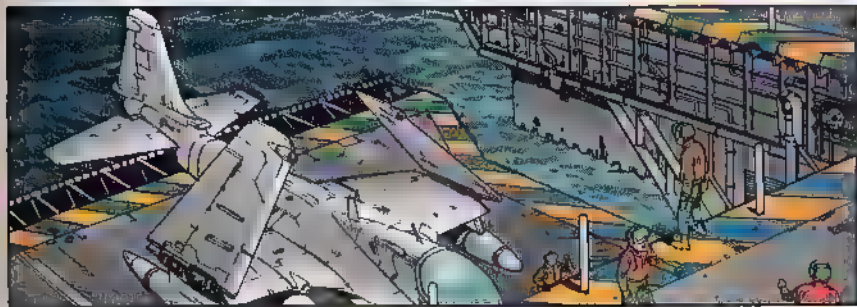
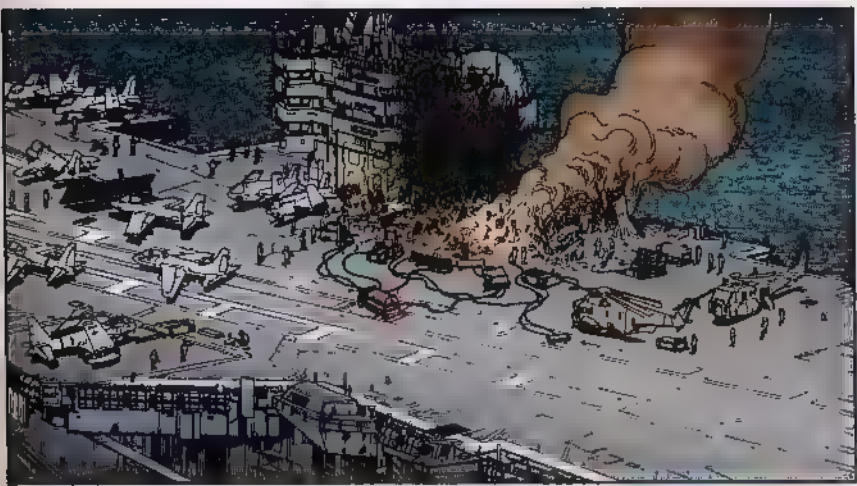
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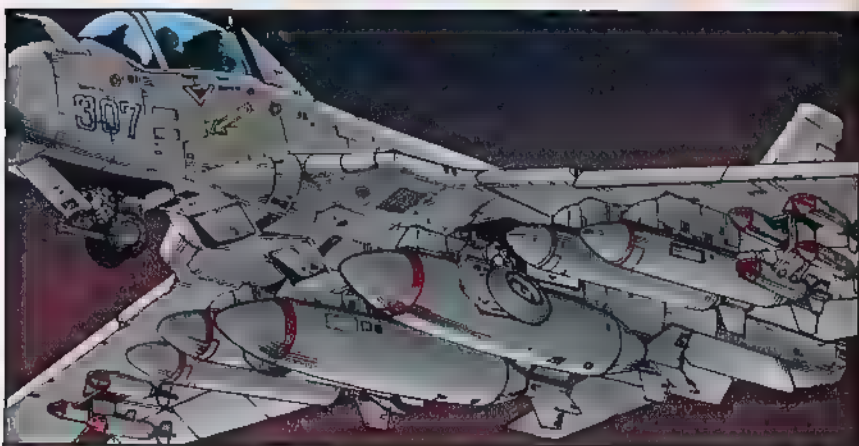
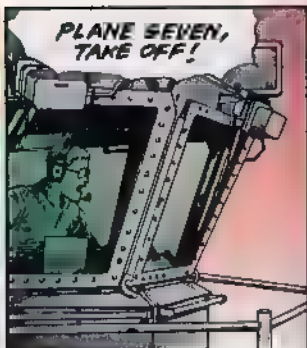
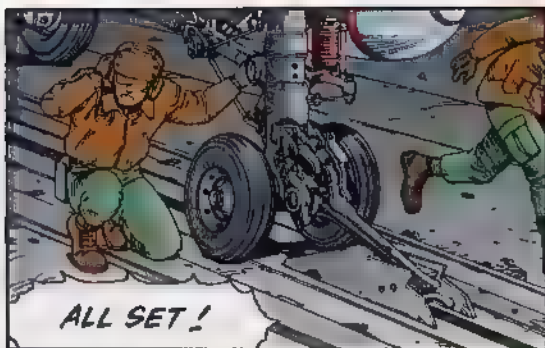
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FOR
IT!

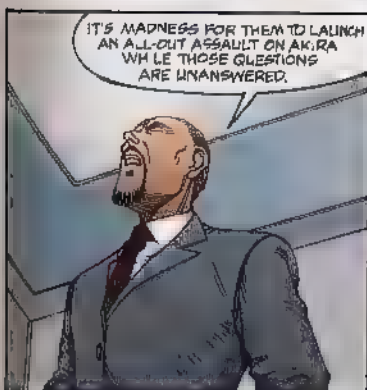
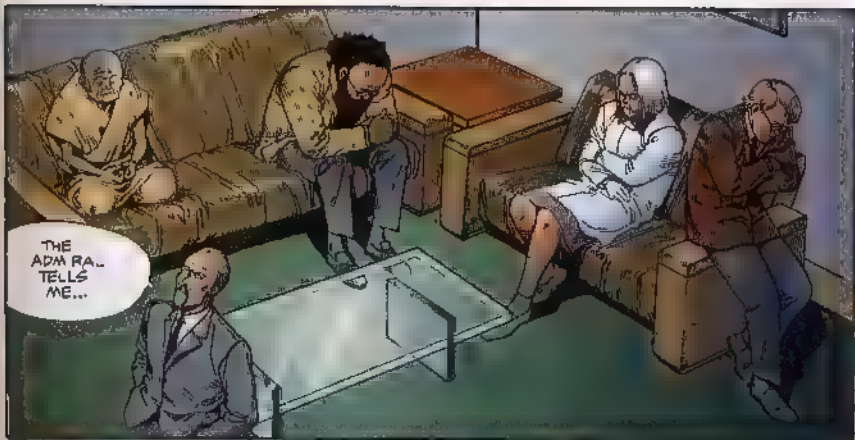
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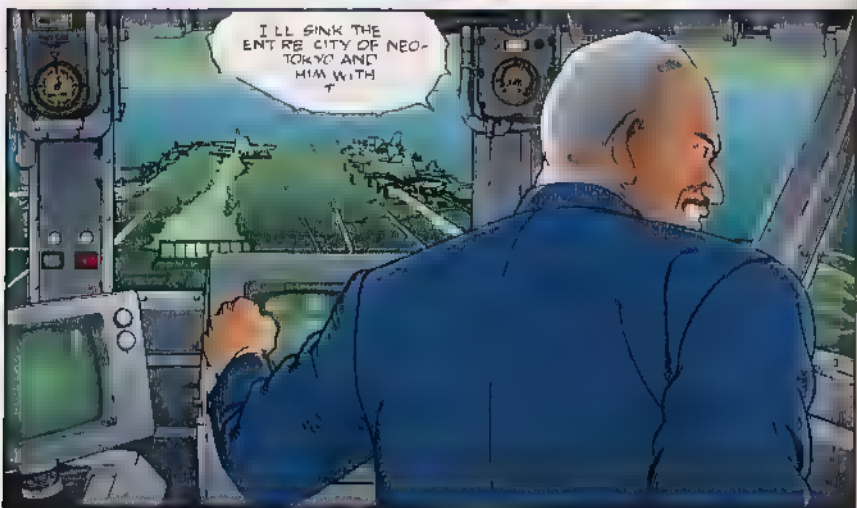
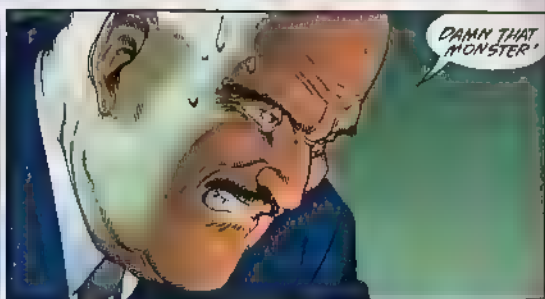
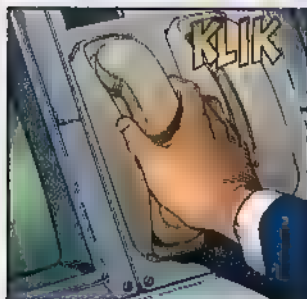
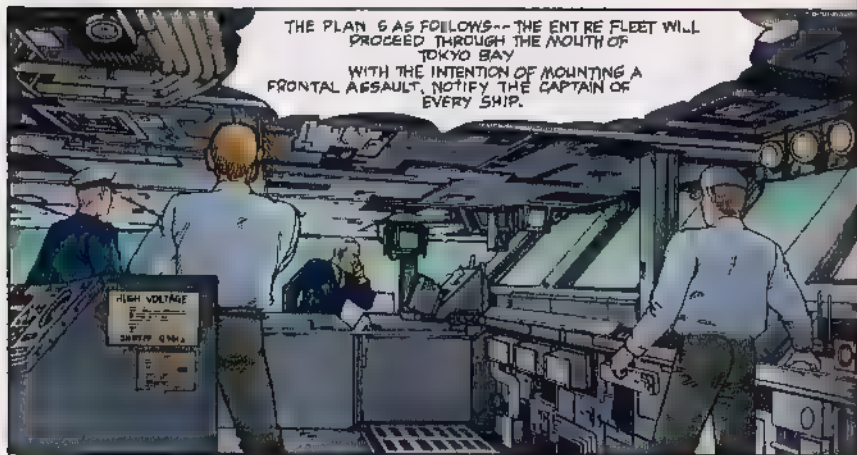
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PANIC!

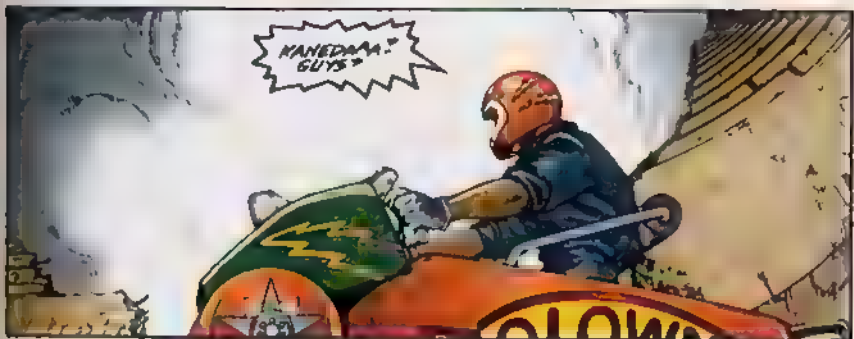
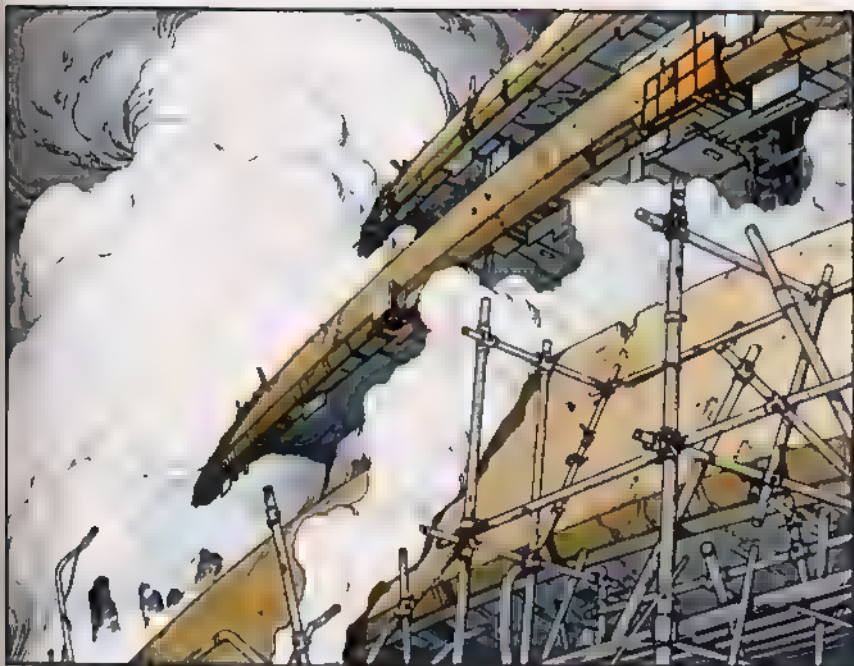


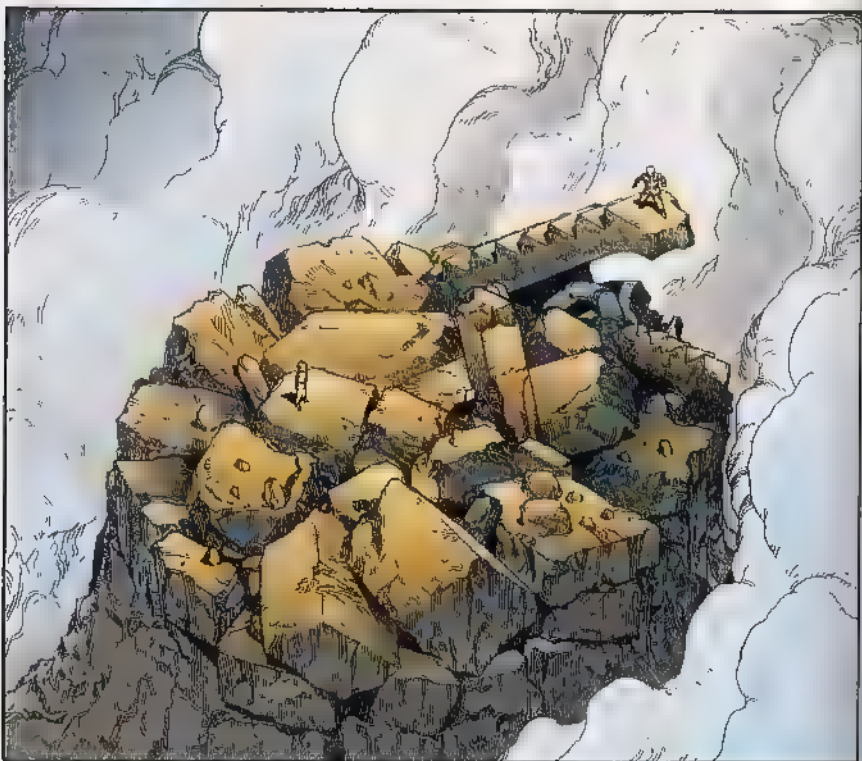
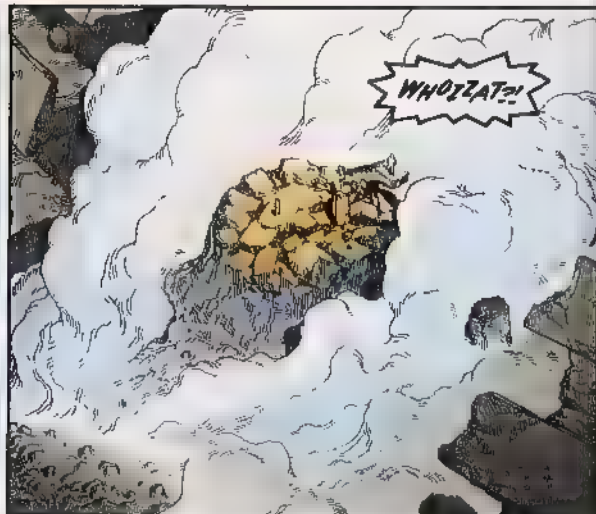


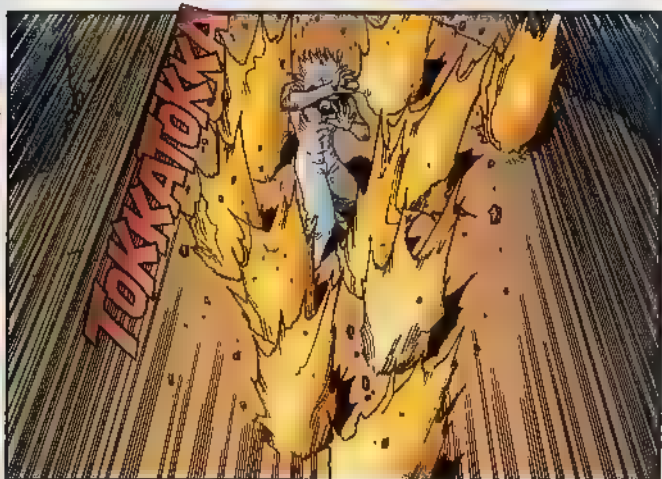
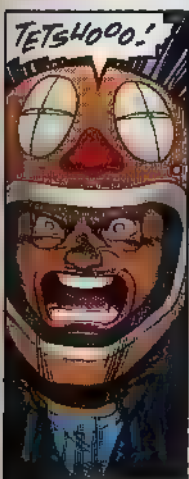


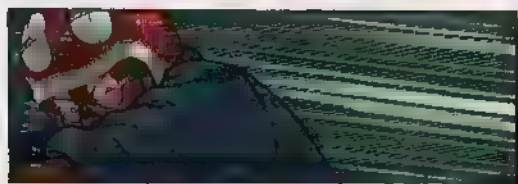


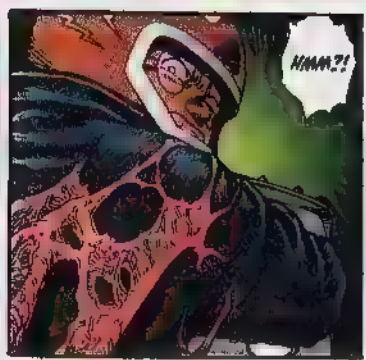
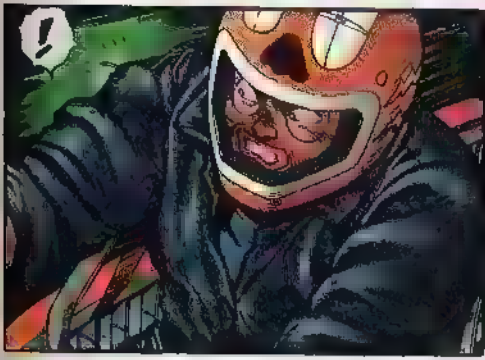
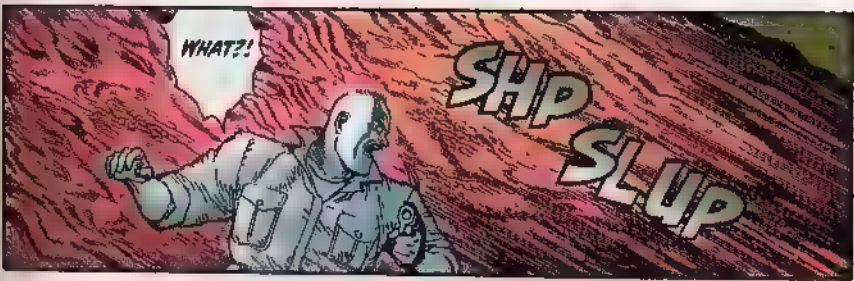


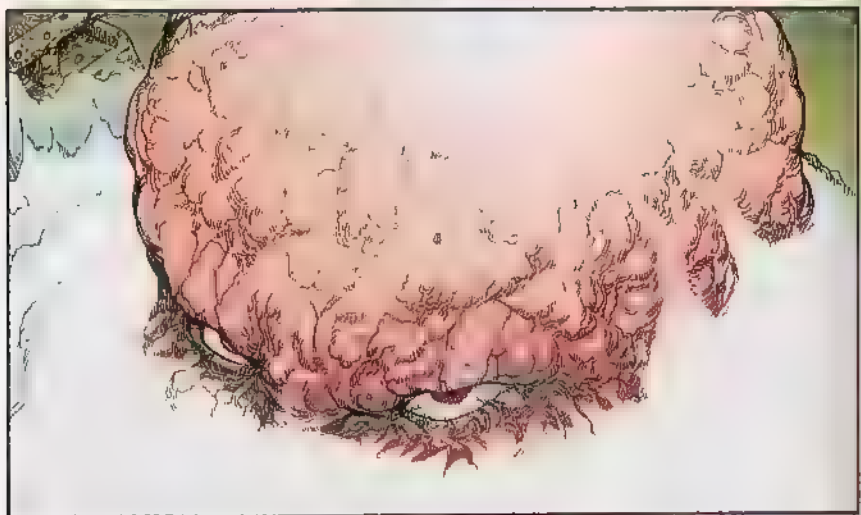
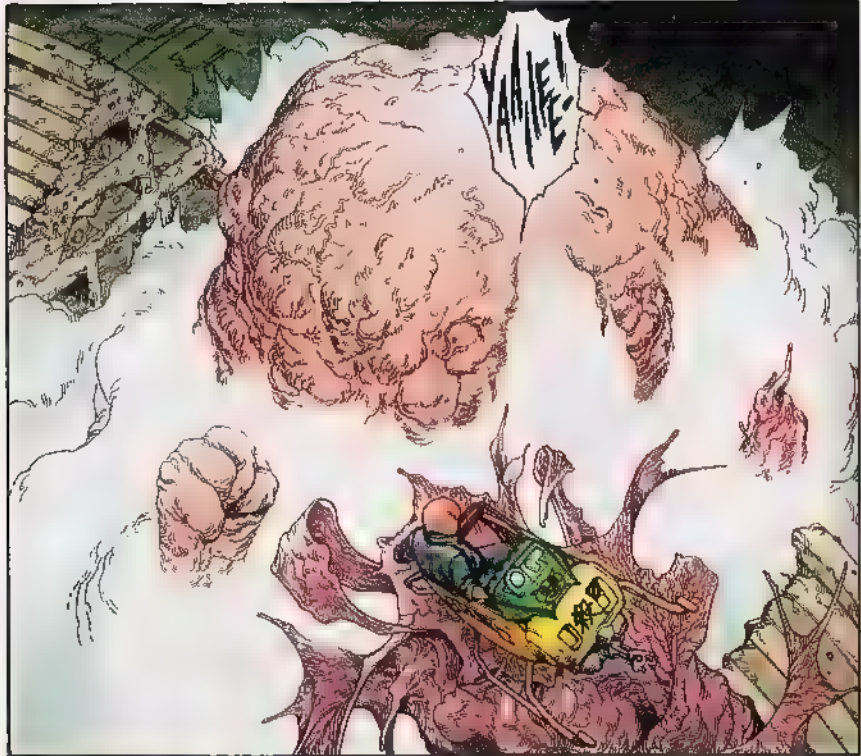


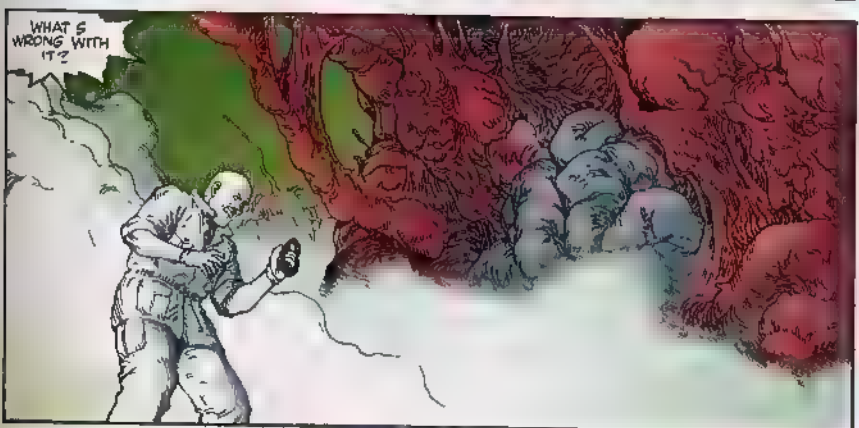
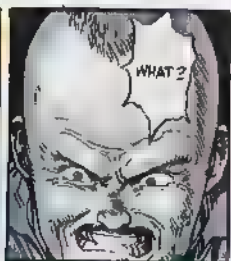
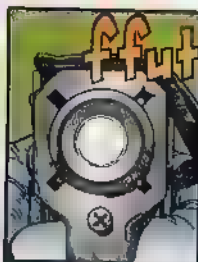
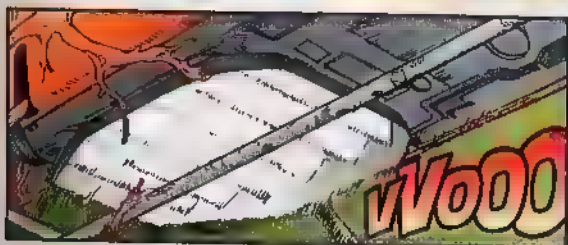
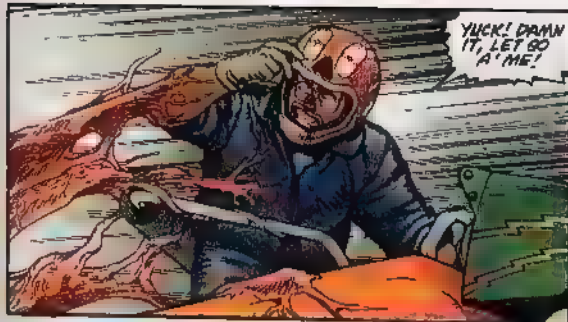


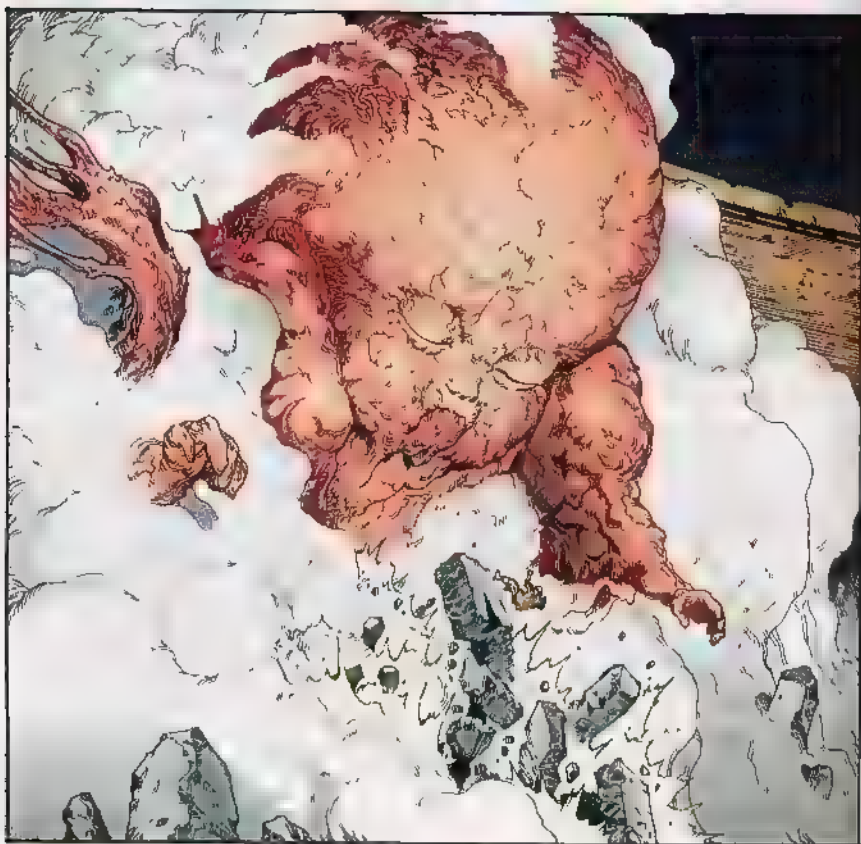
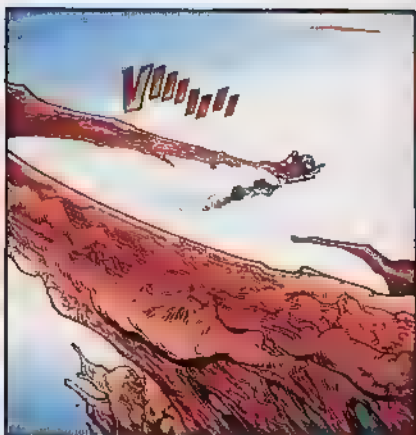
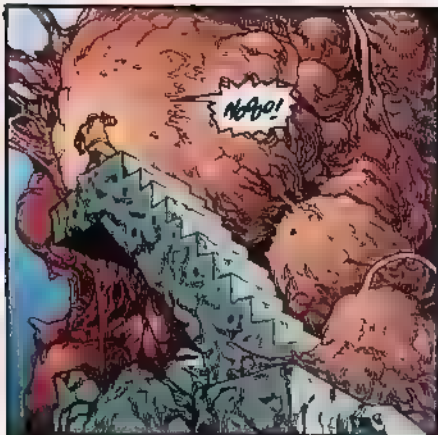


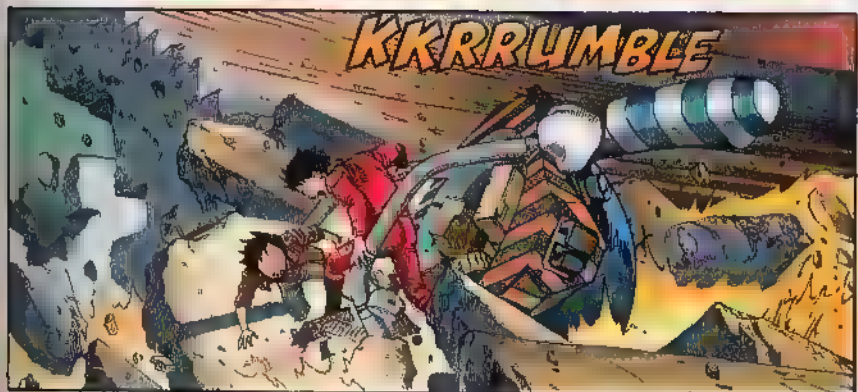
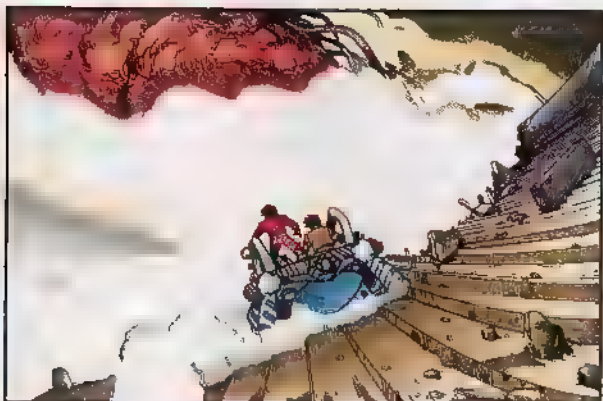


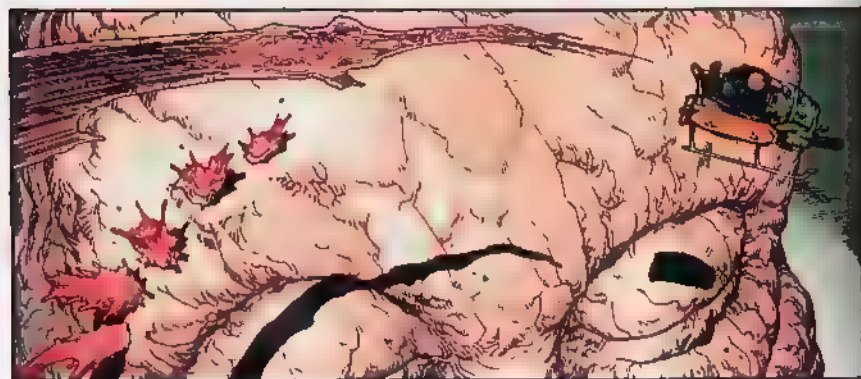
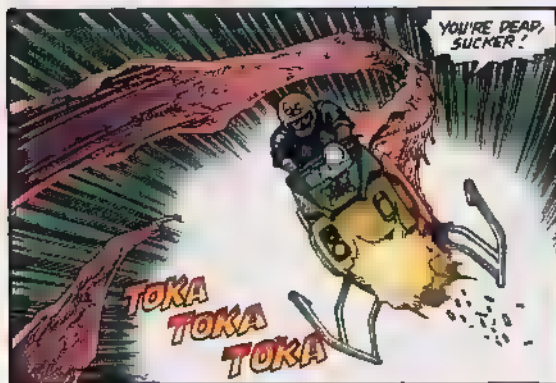
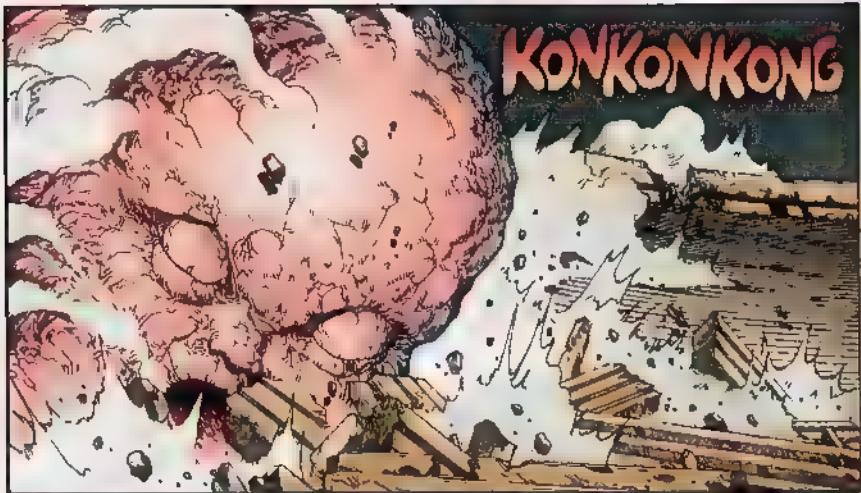


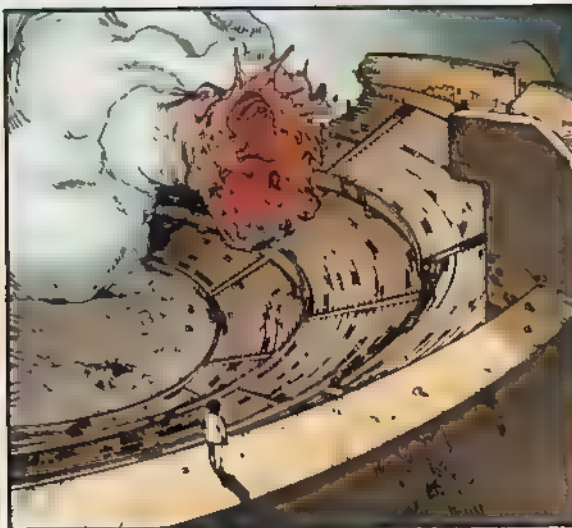
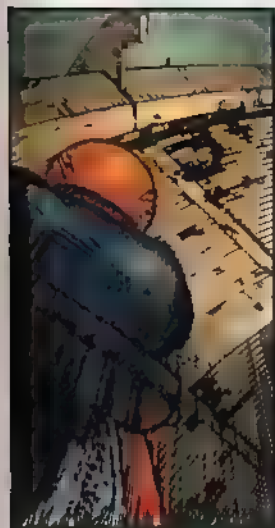
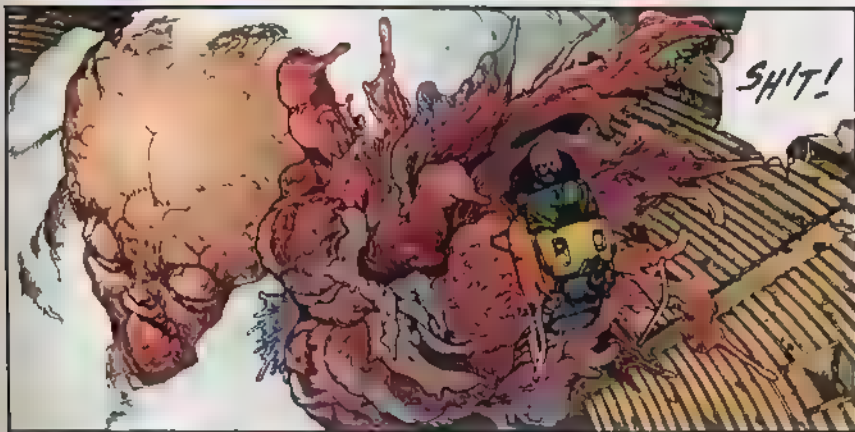


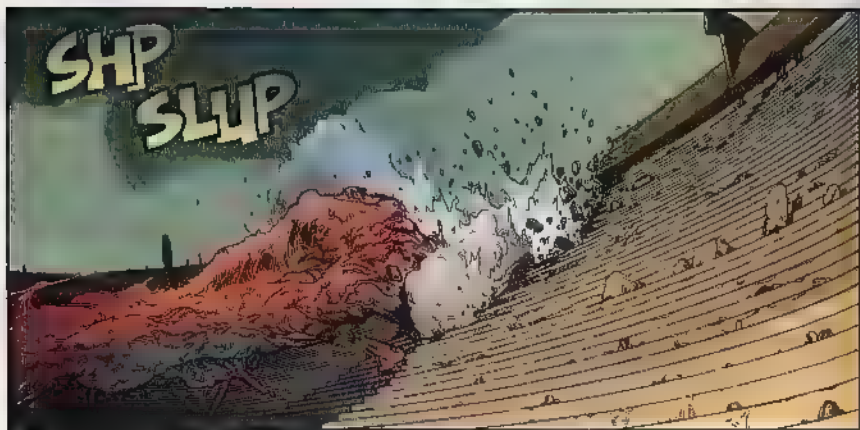


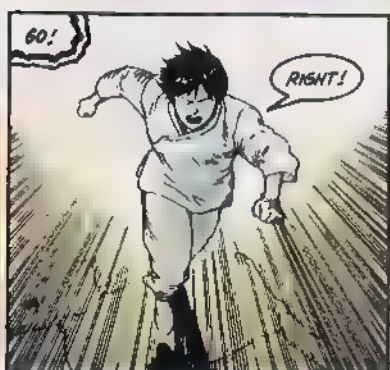
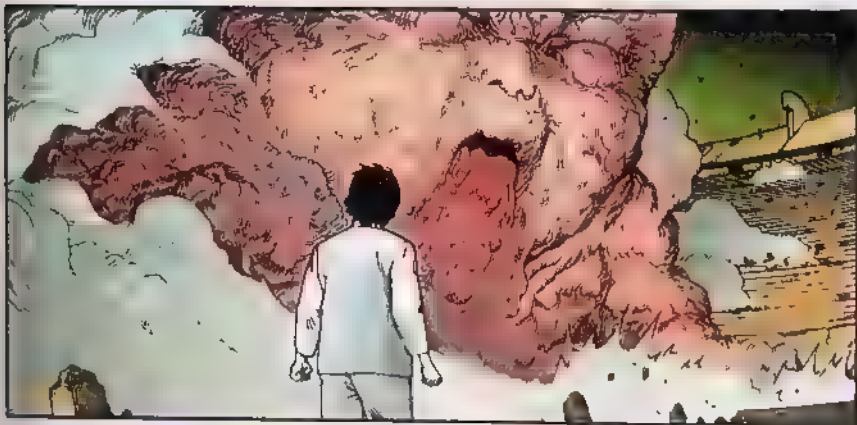


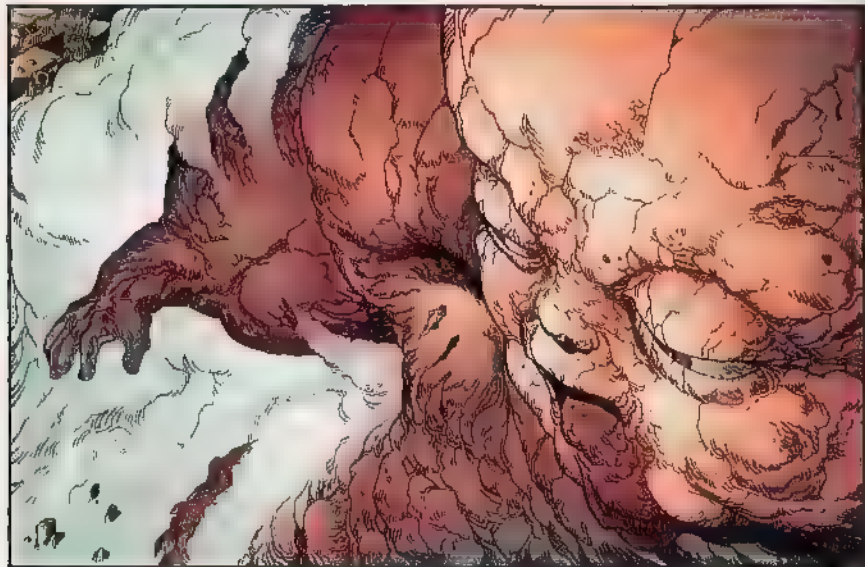
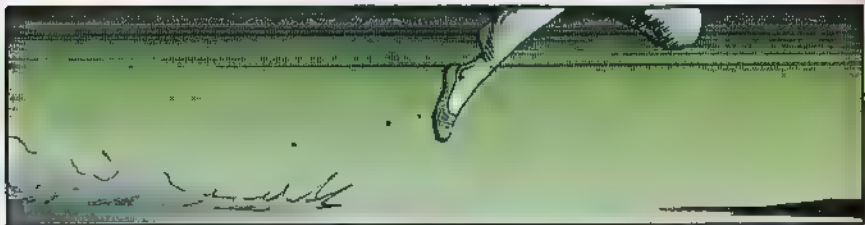
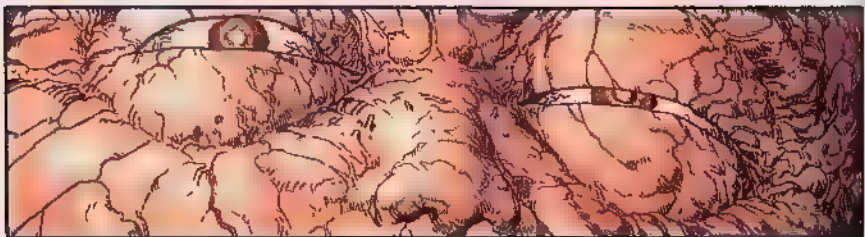
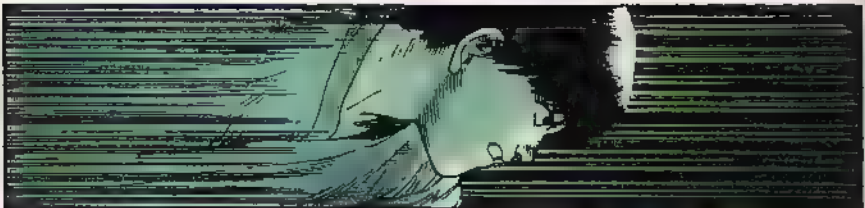




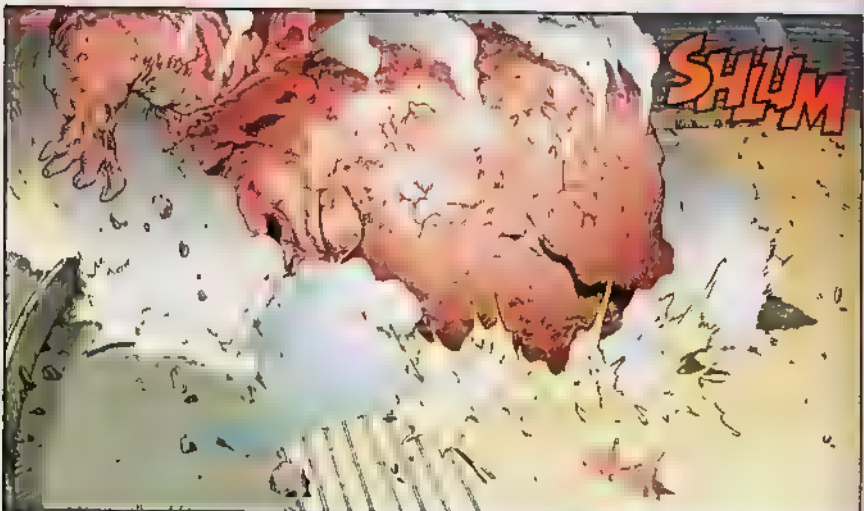


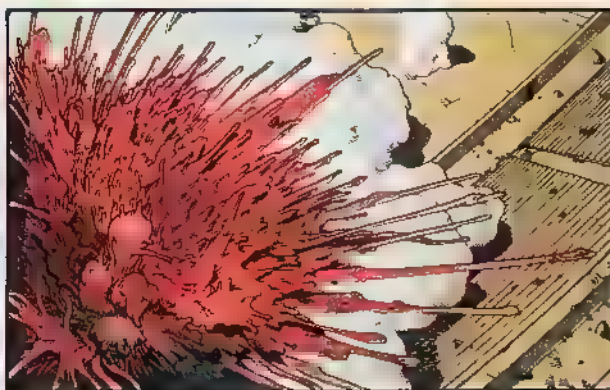
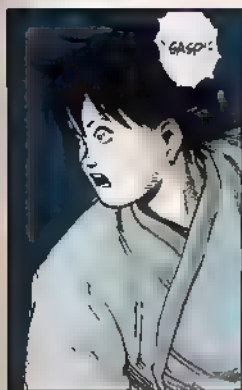
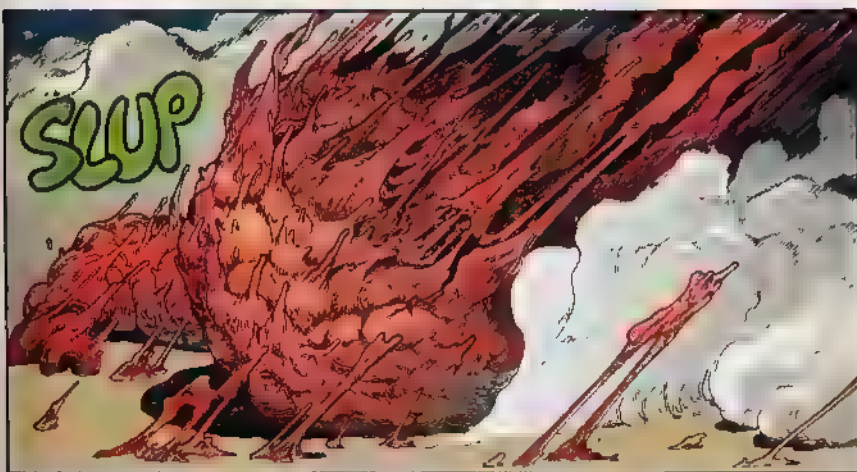
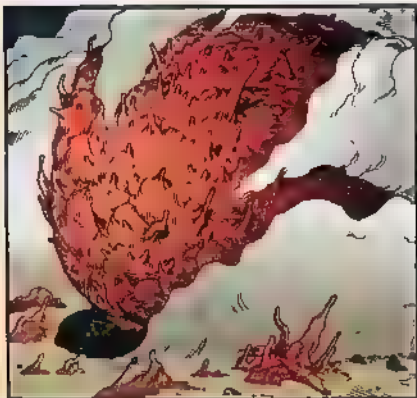
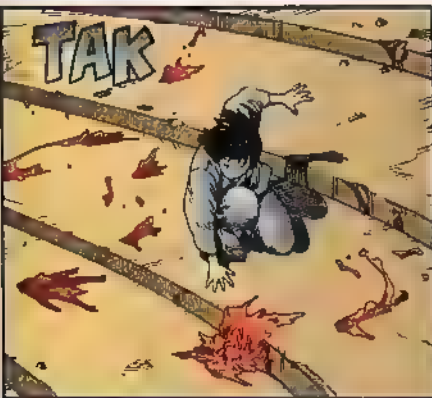


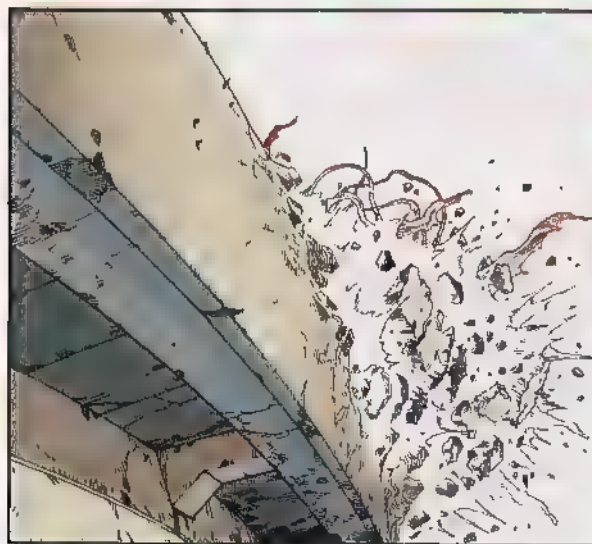
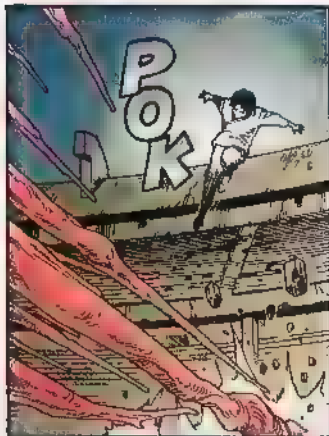


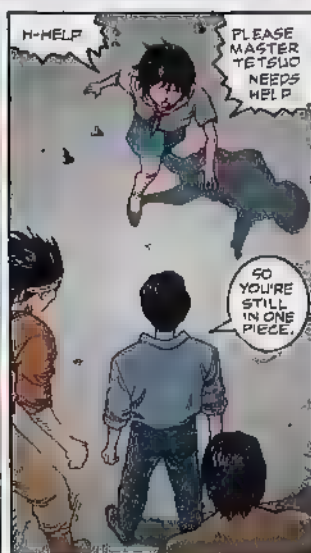
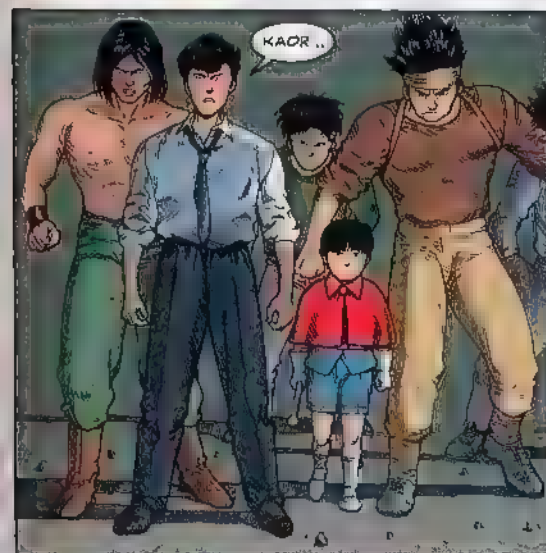


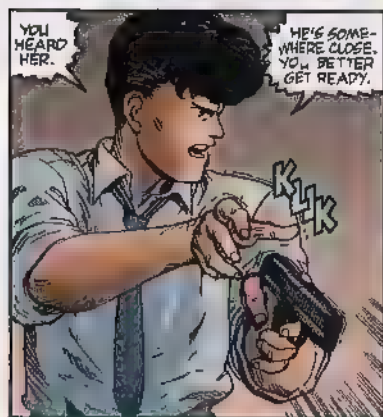
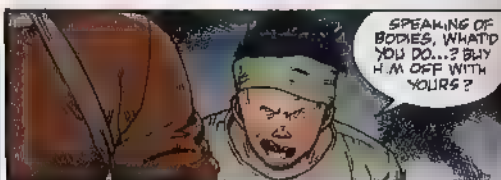
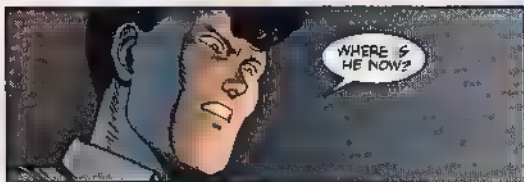
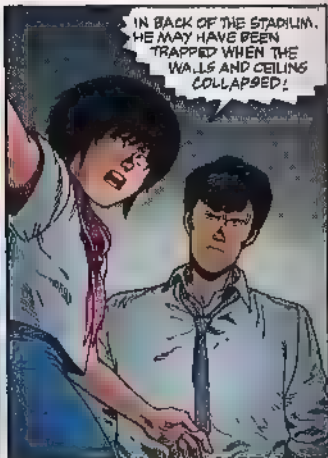


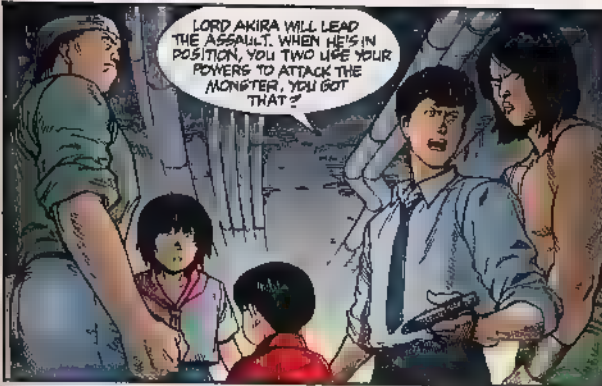


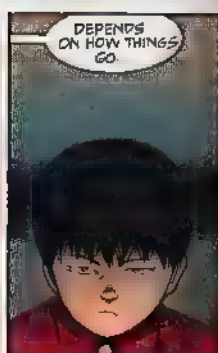
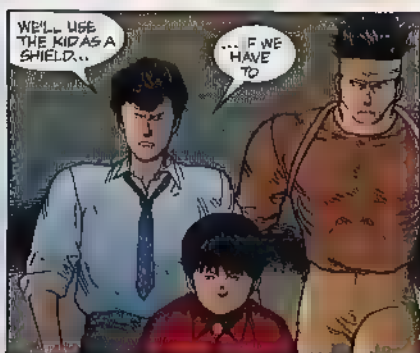
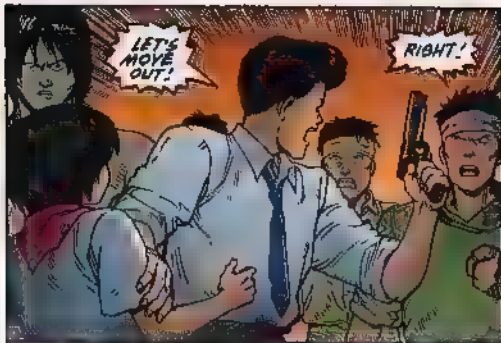


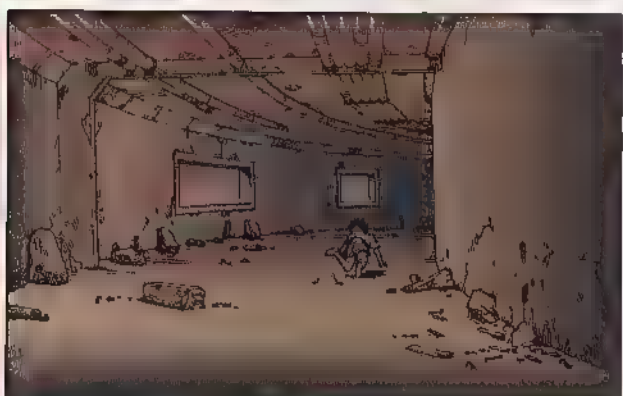
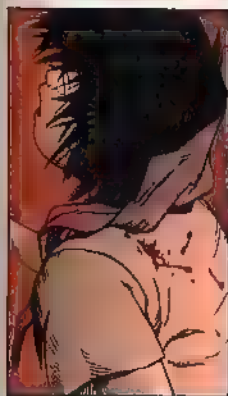
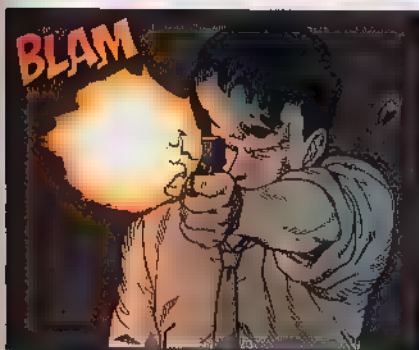


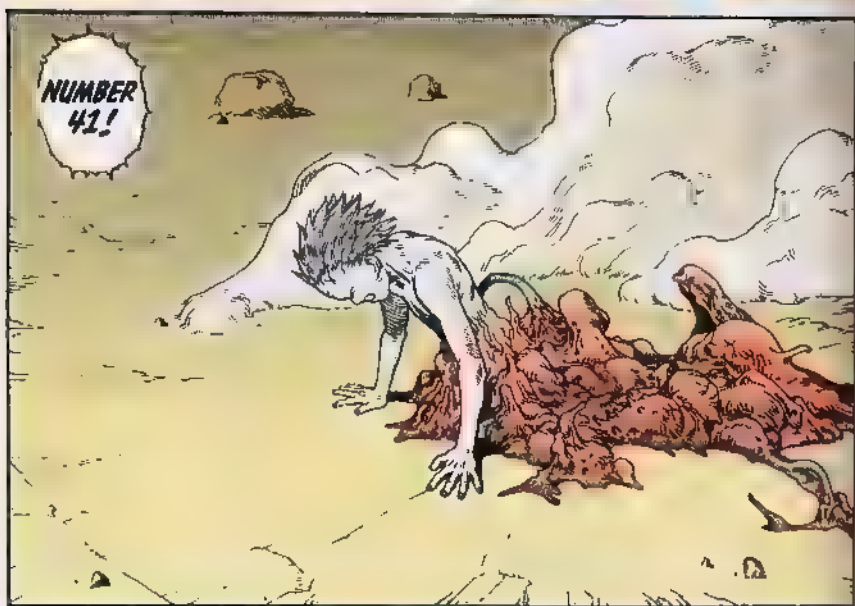
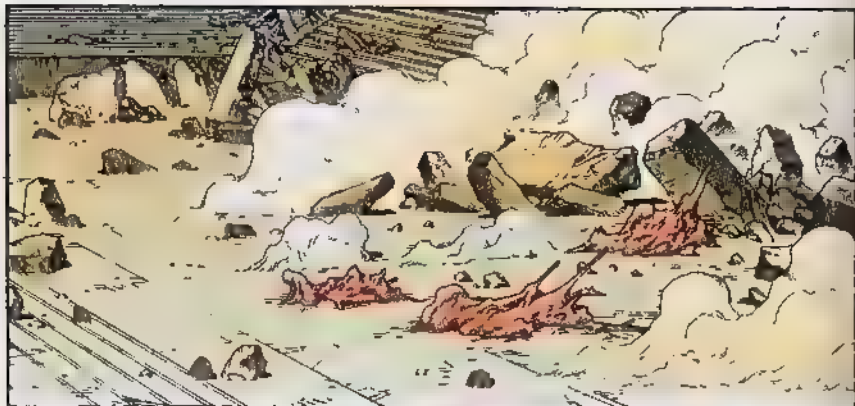


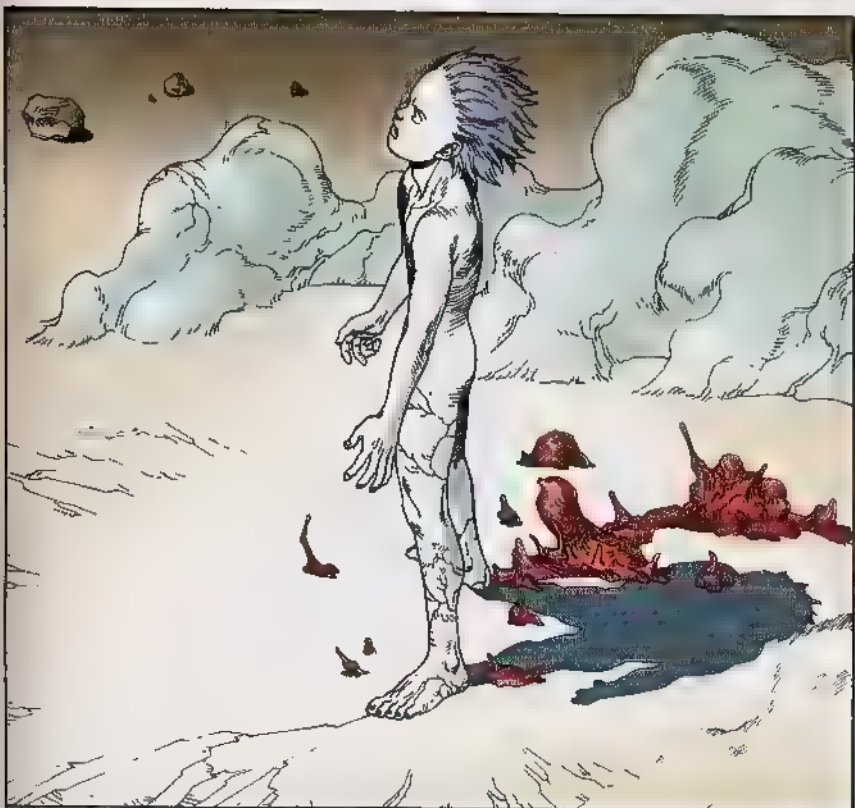
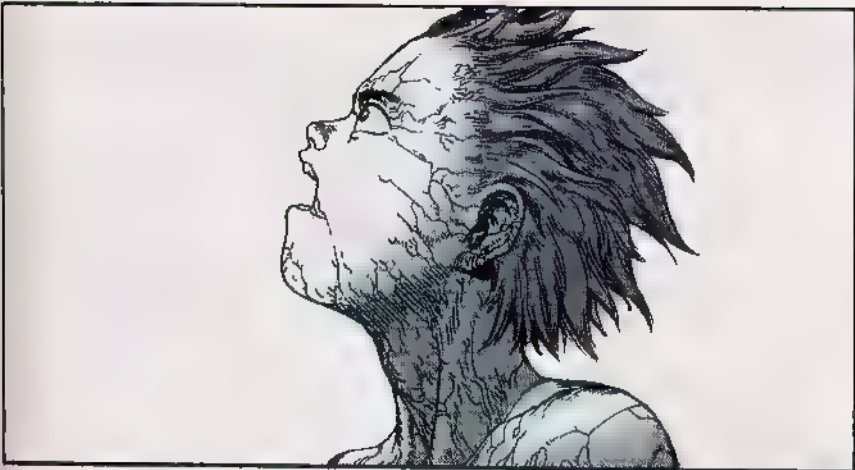


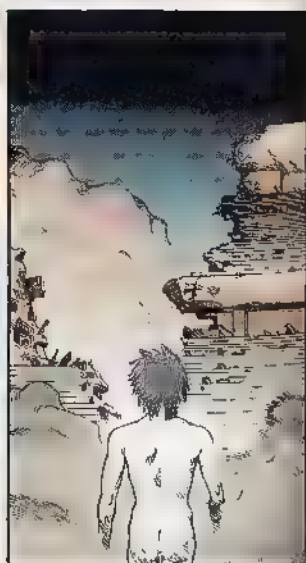
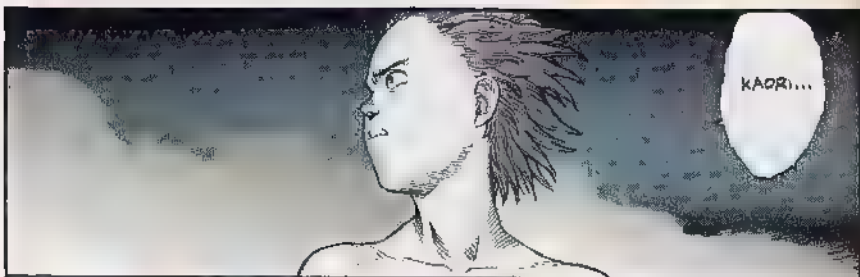
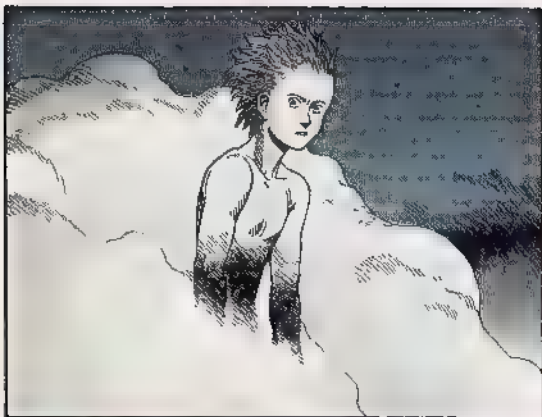


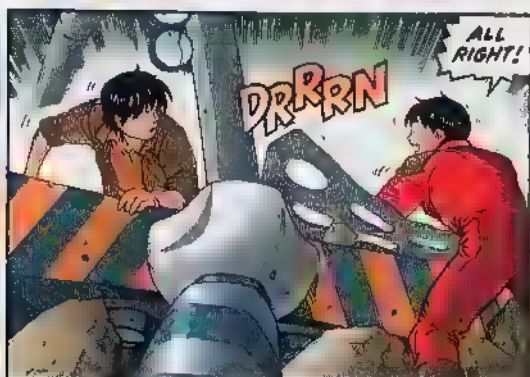
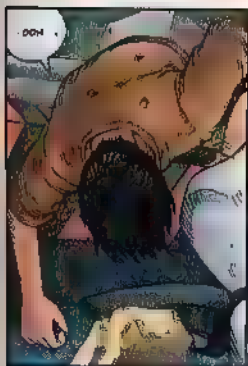


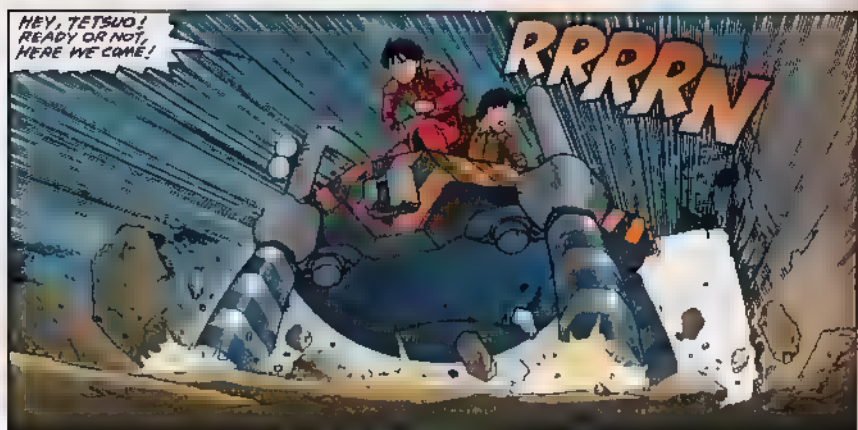
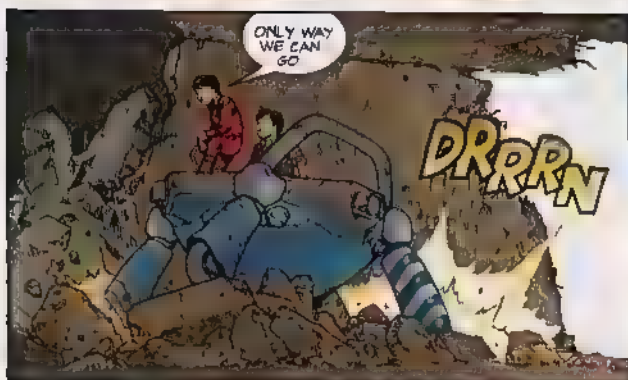
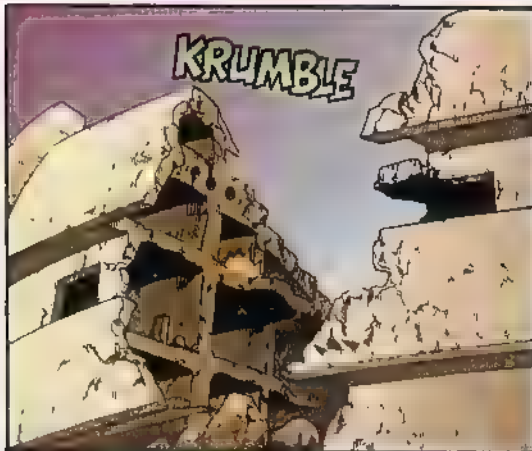


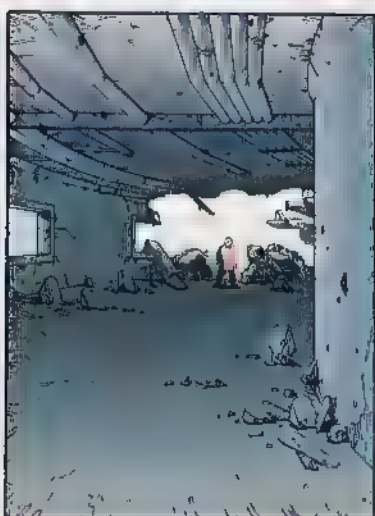
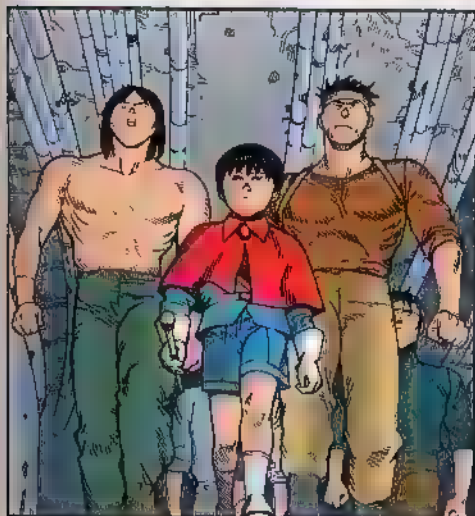
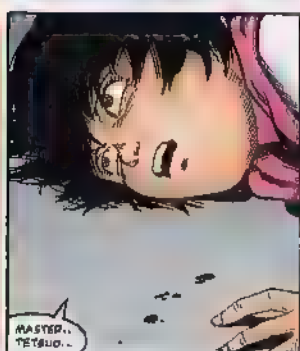
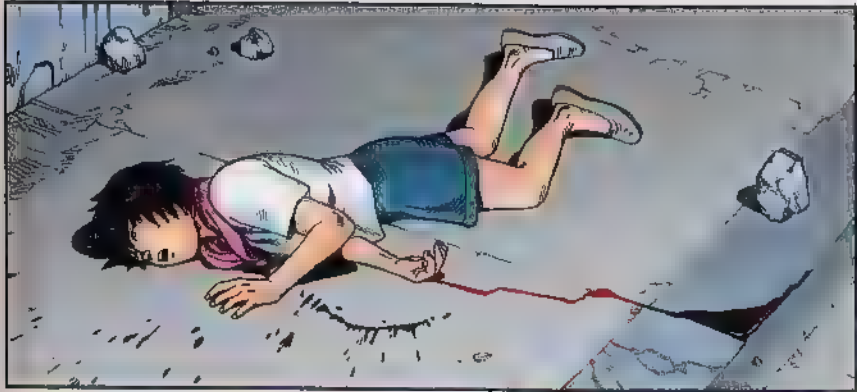


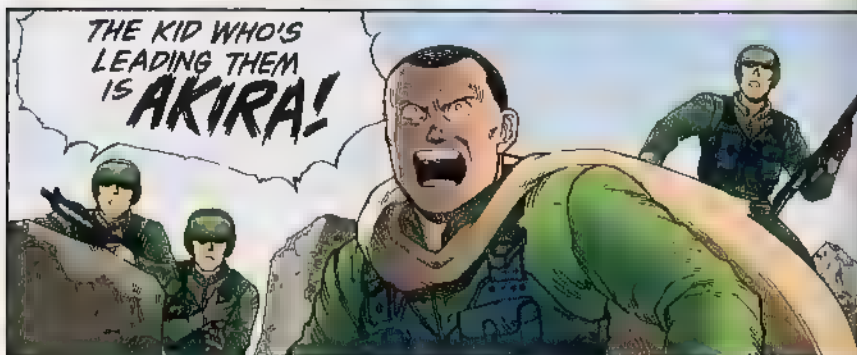
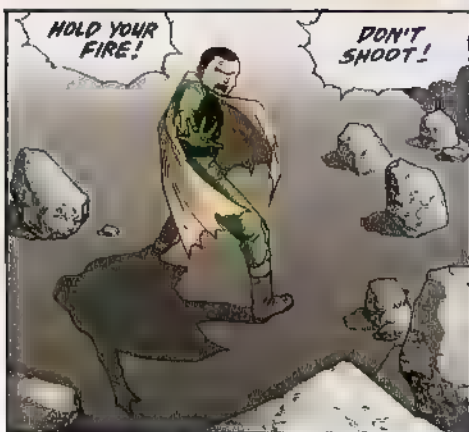
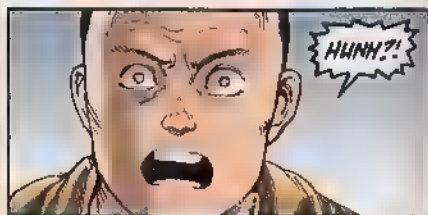


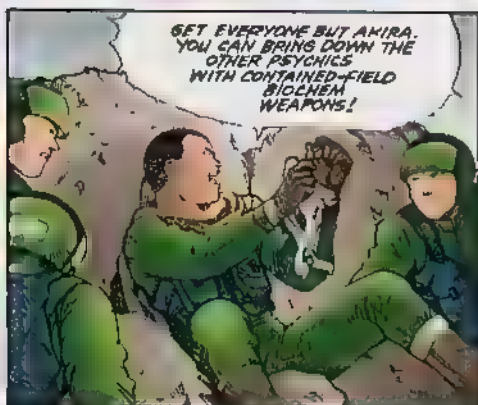
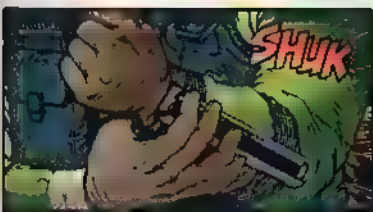
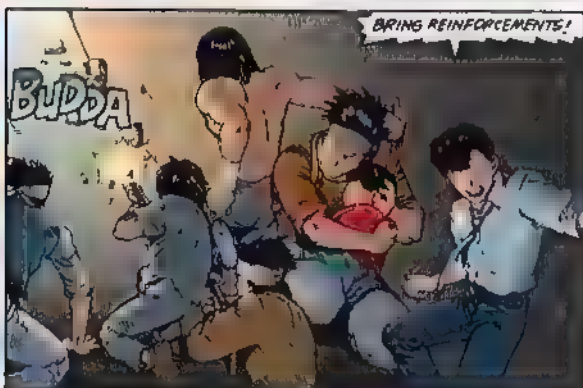


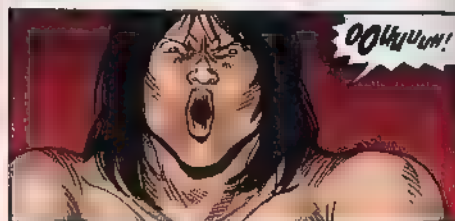
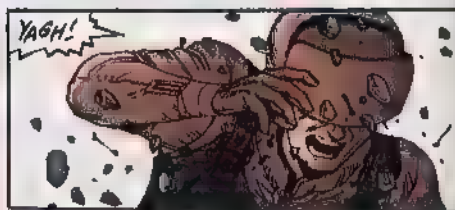
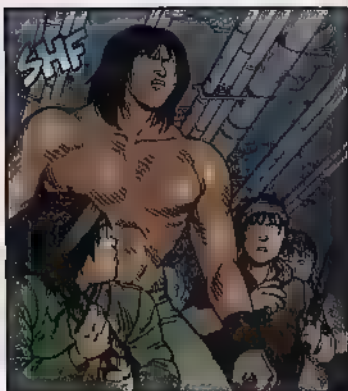


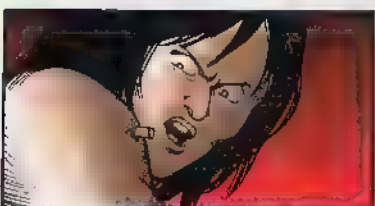
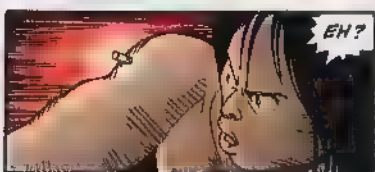
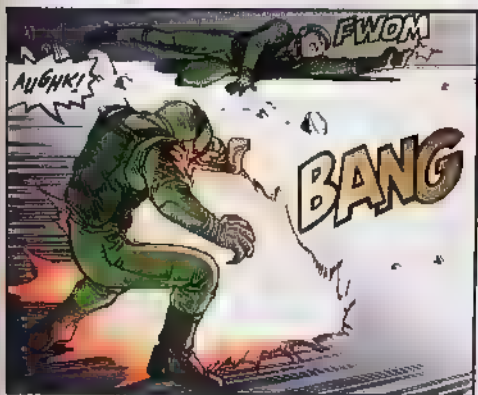
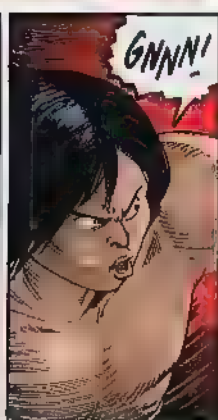
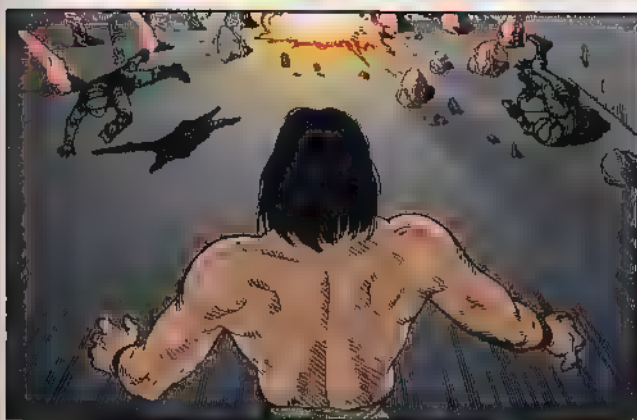


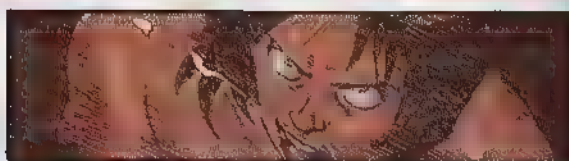
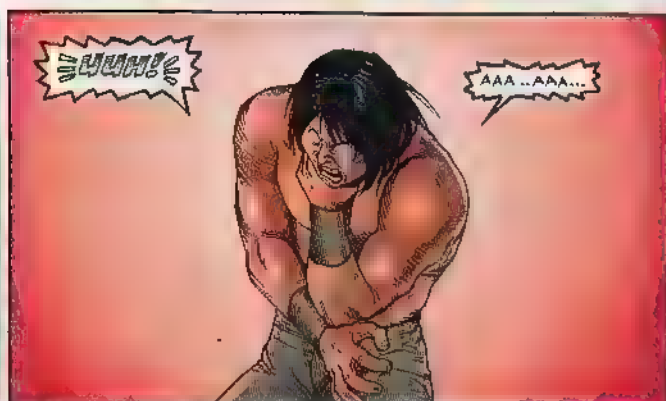
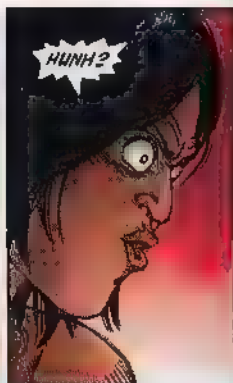


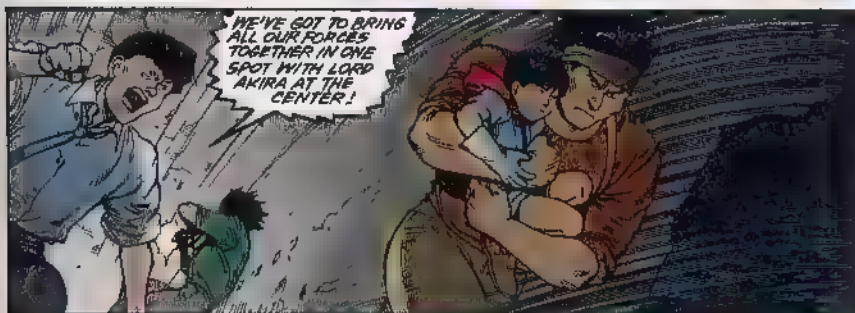
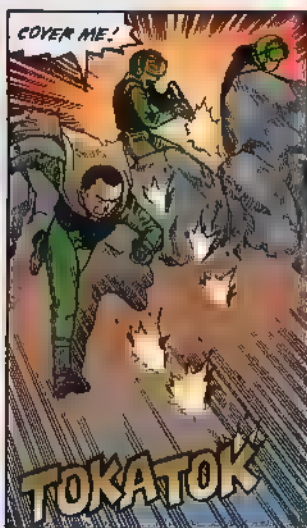


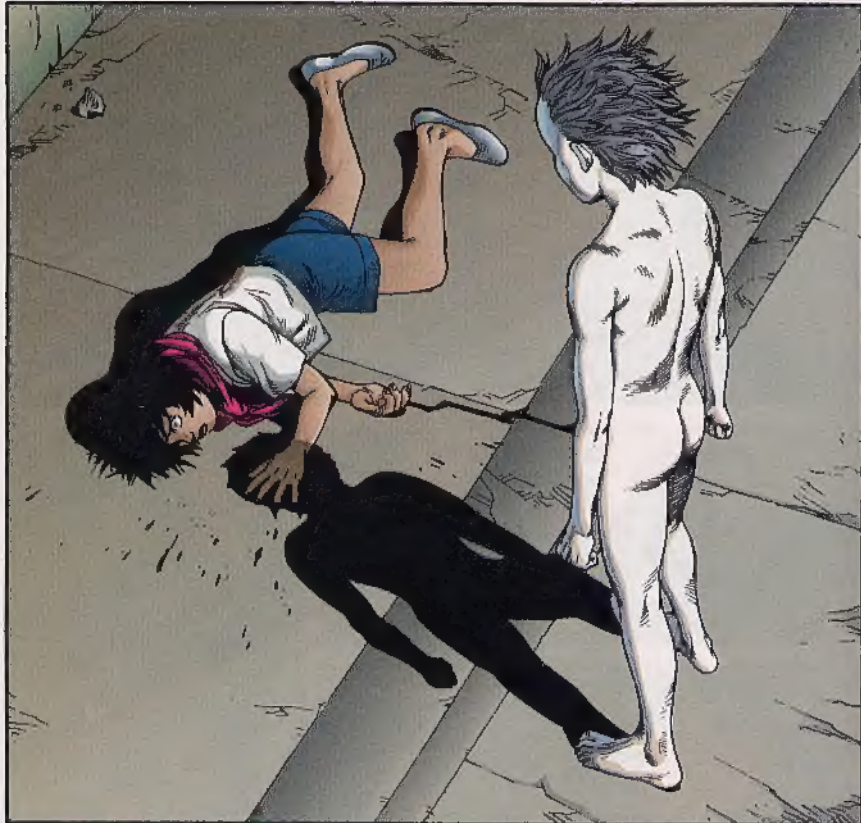












NEXT ISSUE: **ARMS RACE**



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Primordial forces compete in Neo-Tokyo's Olympic stadium, raw genesis and ragged apocalypse vying for the devotion of a city's survivors and the attention of the entire world. Creation's champion is the anguished Tetsuo, flesh betraying his humanity to unnatural transformation and transcendence. Destruction's heroes range from the manic Kaneda and Kai, toy soldiers atop stolen war machines ... to dire American troops, men fearful as boys in attacking the mighty Akira ... to the grim Colonel, unleashing heavenly power in a reckless attempt to reclaim his old world from the new one he's helped set loose.

Choose your side. ... as if there are any winners in this deadly game.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



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